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THE MUD PACK™

ALAN GRANT
NORM BREYFOGLE
STEVE MITCHELL

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DAN RASPLER Associate Editor – Original Series
JEB WOODARD Group Editor – Collected Editions
STEVE COOK Design Director – Books
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BATMAN: THE DARK KNIGHT DETECTIVE VOLUME 4

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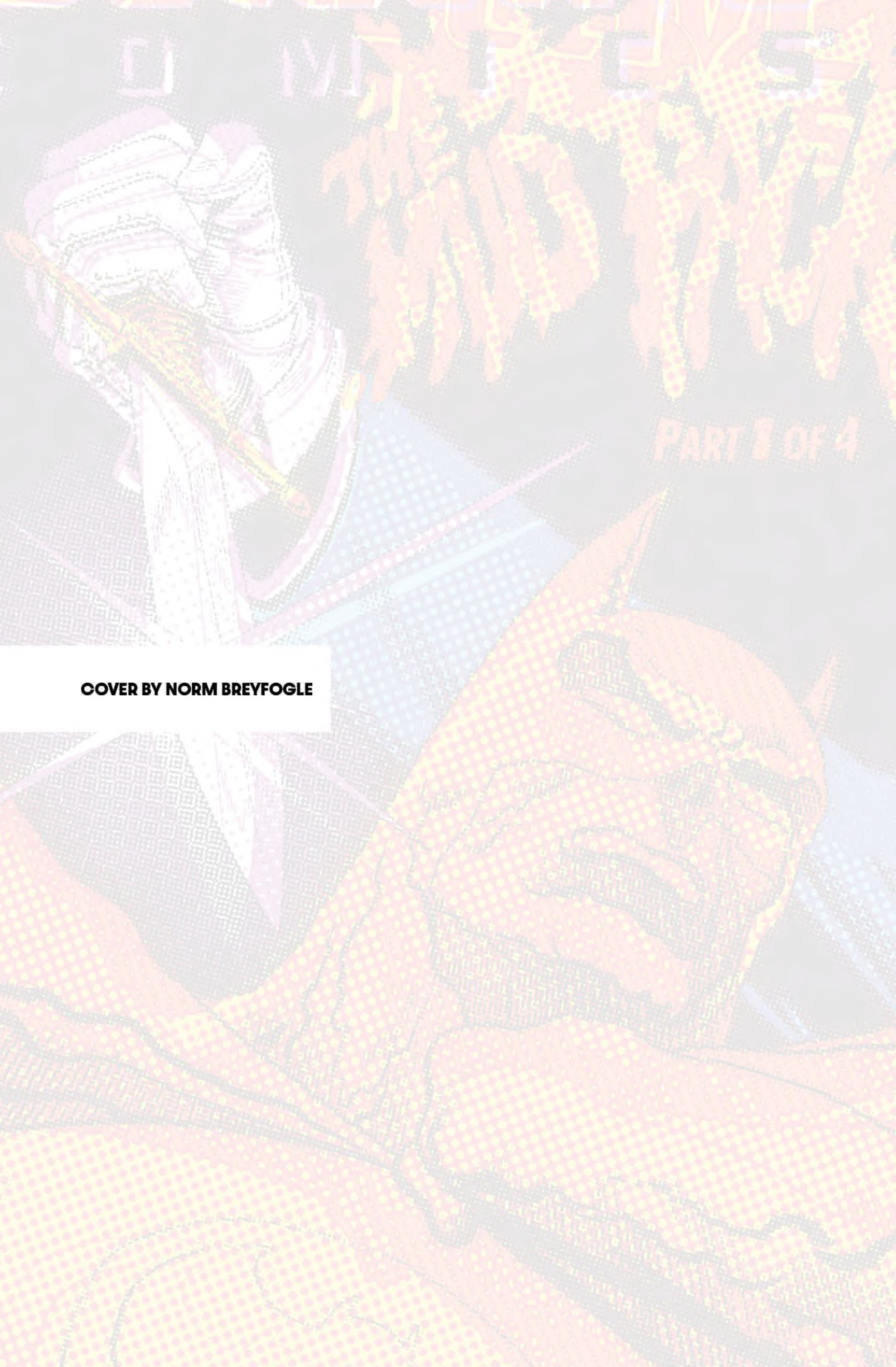
THE MUD PACK™

PART 1 OF 4

604
No. 9

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

ALAN GRANT
NORM BREYFOGLE
STEVE MITCHELL



COVER BY NORM BREYFOGLE

THE MUD PACK
THE BATMAN
PART ONE:
MEN OF CLAY
ALAN GRANT WRITER
NORM BREYFOGLE PENCILLER
STEVE MITCHELL INKER
TODD KLEIN LETTERER
ADRIENNE ROY COLORIST
DAN RASPLER ASSOC. EDITOR
DENNY O'NEIL EDITOR
BOB KANE CREATOR

I SAW AN ANGEL TODAY.

HELENA... WE HAVE TO TALK.

SHE WAS EVERYTHING ANGELS ARE: BEAUTIFUL, SERENE, GLOWING WITH A JOY THAT SHONE OUT FROM HER VERY ESSENCE.

WE ...WE JUST CAN'T GO *ON* LIKE THIS, HELENA! LIVING A *LIE--PRETENDING* ALL THE TIME -- FOR THE SAKE OF APPEAR-ANCES...

SONY SURVEILLANCE

HER EYES WERE RADIANT WITH UNSPOKEN PROMISES. EVERYTHING WILL BE ALL RIGHT, THEY TOLD ME ...

OUR LOVE HAS LONG SINCE *DIED*. WE SHOULD MAKE... A CLEAN BREAK-- WHILE WE'RE BOTH STILL YOUNG ENOUGH TO FIND HAPPINESS AGAIN.

RKHAM
SYLVM
OR THE
NALLY
ANE

JUST BE STRONG, AND SEE IT THROUGH.

HELENA... I WANT A *DIVORCE*.

HEAR THAT, JOE? *CLAYFACE* WANTS A DIVORCE--FROM HIS STORE WINDOW *DUMMY*!

15

13

16

GEEZ, THIS IS BETTER THAN THE *SOAPS*!

THERE. I'VE SAID IT. AFTER ALL THIS TIME--THE MONTHS OF STUDIED POLITENESS, ALL THE LITTLE LIES--I'VE SAID IT.

NO, IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THAT OTHER GIRL. I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT IT A LOT. I'M SURE IT WOULD BE FOR THE BEST.

HOW...HOW DO *YOU* FEEL ABOUT IT?

2

HELENA! LOOK AT ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!

YOU'RE ALWAYS THE SAME! MENTION SOMETHING YOU DON'T *LIKE*--SOMETHING YOU DON'T *WANT* TO DISCUSS--AND I GET THE *COLD SHOULDER!*

MY HEAD POUNDS DEEP INSIDE A TINY VOICE IS SCREAMING "NO"... BUT IT'S WASHED AWAY IN THE TORRENT OF MY *FEVER.*

THE SHOULDER'S COLD--BUT MY *BLOOD* STARTS TO *BOIL.* THERE'S A ROARING IN MY EARS.

DON'T *IGNORE* ME! I *HATE* IT WHEN YOU IGNORE ME!

HER LIP CURVES IN AN ICY SNEER. MY FEVER SEETHES.

DO YOU HEAR ME? I *HATE* IT, HELENA...

SMAK!

I *HATE IT!*

HELENA...?

GEEZUS! HE'S *FLIPPED!* THAT DUMMY'S THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS HIM *DOCILE!*

SECURITY! PRESTON PAYNE -- ROOM 13--IMMEDIATE *MEDICATION!*

USE THE *TRANK-DARTS* --AND HURRY IT UP!

SECURITY

HELENA?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND. IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE LIKE THIS.

I REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST MET, WHEN OUR LOVE WAS YOUNG AND SPARKLING. SHE USED TO HOLD ME THEN, SOOTHE MY PAIN, LET IT ALL MELT AWAY IN THE SUNSHINE OF HER SMILE.

WHAT HAPPENED? MY ANGEL'S EYES PROMISED EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALL RIGHT...

THEY PROMISED!

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

HELENANOIDIDN'TMEANTOI'M SORRYHELENAPLEASE!

BAM BAM BAM

PAYNE, P. 0521

GET READY! SHOOT AS SOON AS I OPEN THE--

KRAANK

AGH!

SHOOT, JOE! SHOOT!

MY MIND IS A SCREAM. MY EYES SEE ONLY RED.

FUT FUT PUT PUT

I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYBODY BUT HELENA'S DEAD AND I'M BURNING INSIDE AND I DON'T CARE ANY MORE!

N-NO, MAN!

5

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO PUT OUT THE FIRES--

AAAH!

WAK

ONLY ONE WAY--

OH NO! PLEASE...

P-P-P-PLEASE--!

NOOOOOO...

ONE WAY!

SSSSSSSSSS

PHAK

FLK

KRAK

7

CHNK

WREEEOOOEEE

RRROAKK

8

HORROR? HAH!

THEY DON'T KNOW THE *MEANING* OF THE WORD, *MATTHEW!*

XXX GIRLS !!!

BAR

ADULT THEATER

SKREEEE

CHAINSAWS AND ZOMBIES AND VISCERA--THAT'S NOT HORROR, MATTHEW. IT'S *NAUSEA--DISGUST--* CHEAP *EXPLOITATION!* COUNT THE MONEY, WHILE TRUE ART *DROWNS* IN A WELTER OF *DESIGNER GORE!*

NOW SHOWING

SEX-DEATH OF THE CHAINSAW ZOMBIE

NOT LIKE IT USED TO BE. WE KNEW A THING OR TWO ABOUT *REAL* HORROR IN MY TIME!

ONCE, I HELD *MILLIONS* SPELLBOUND WITH NO MORE THAN A *SWEEP* OF MY *CAPE!* LADIES *SWOONED* AWAY IN STARK *TERROR* IF I SO MUCH AS *RAISED* AN *EYEBROW!*

I WAS THE GREATEST ACTOR OF MY GENERATION -- A LIVING LEGEND! THEN THEY HAULED ME OFFSTAGE AND LOCKED ME AWAY FOR MURDER.

BUT NOW I HAVE PAID MY DEBT AND I RETURN TO A WORLD I BARELY RECOGNIZE.

BAR

BAR

NOW SHOWING

DEATH ZOM

IN 3-D!

MONSTERS ARE NO LONGER THINGS OF THE SHADOWS, LURKING ON THE FAR FRINGES OF THE MIND... THEY'RE TECHNICOLOR SPECIAL EFFECTS THAT BURST LIKE RAINBOWS FROM THE SCREEN!

HORROR? *HAH!*

LA SCALA THEATER

STILL ...TIMES CHANGE, MATTHEW, AND WE HAVE LITTLE OPTION BUT TO CHANGE WITH THEM.

9

WHAT--? UUNGH!

NO TRICKS, OLD MAN, OR I PULP YOUR BRAIN!

SEE WHAT HE'S GOT IN THE SACK, BIX!

HEY HEY! WHAT GOODIES WE GOT HERE, GRANPA?

DIRT...?

SAY WHAT?

WHAT THE HELL YOU CARRYIN'-- HUH?

OH SHOOT! HIS F-FACE--!

AAAH!

THUTCH

N-NO, MAN! WE DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN'! WE WOULDN'T HAVE HURT YA!

HONEST, WE-- AAAGH!!

SHK

SORRY ABOUT THAT, MATTHEW. THEY'D SEEN TOO MANY MOVIES, NO DOUBT.

PULP MY BRAIN, INDEED!

DRACULA

BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN

JEKYLL AND HYDE

HORROR?

I'LL GIVE THEM HORROR!

IT'S *PRESTON PAYNE*, BATMAN... *CLAYFACE!* HE'S KILLED ONE ORDERLY, BADLY HURT ANOTHER, AND BROKEN OUT OF ARKHAM!

JOE'S DINE

HE WAS HIT BY A COUPLE OF TRANK-DARTS, BUT IT WASN'T ENOUGH! HE MADE IT THROUGH THE FRONT ENTRANCE. SECURITY STAFF ARE OUT HUNTING HIM NOW!

I'M ON MY WAY, COMMISSIONER!

11

PRESTON PAYNE-- THE THIRD, THE MOST DANGEROUS, THE *CRAZIEST* OF THE MEN WHO CALLED THEMSELVES *CLAYFACE!*

AN ACROMEGALIC WITH A HIDEOUSLY DEFORMED BODY, HE INJECTED HIMSELF WITH BLOOD FROM THE SECOND *CLAYFACE*. BUT, RATHER THAN THE SALVATION HE SOUGHT, HE, TOO, TURNED TO *CLAY*...

LEAVING HIM *WRACKED* WITH A *PAIN* THAT ONLY SUBSIDES WHEN HE PASSES HIS CONTAGION ON!

TREATMENT AT ARKHAM WAS HIS ONLY HOPE. BUT IF HE'S OUT...

THERE'S NOT A MAN, WOMAN OR CHILD IN GOTHAM WHO ISN'T AT RISK!

ARKHAM
2 MILES

GO CAREFUL, NOW. HE CAN'T HAVE GOTTEN FAR!

THE TRANKS MUST BE GETTING TO HIM! HIS TRAIL'S BLUNDERING AROUND EVERY WHICH WAY!

FEEL SO... TIRED. HEAVY...

I SWORE IT... WOULDN'T BE LIKE THIS AGAIN. ALONE--HUNTED.

I WAS GOING TO... SETTLE DOWN. LEAD A NORMAL LIFE... BE FOREVER WITH THE ONE...

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...I LOVED.

HELENA...

HEY! WE GOT HIM!

WOULD YA LOOK AT THAT-- SLEEPIN' LIKE A BABY!

AW HECK! I WAS HOPING FOR A LITTLE TARGET PRACTICE!

WHAT--?

THEN WHY DON'T YOU PRACTICE SOME ON *ME*, DARLING?

WHO--?

NO? YOU'D RATHER *GAWK* THAN *SHOOT*?

YOUR MISTAKE, DARLINGS!

M-MY GUN! I CAN'T *STOP* MYSELF--!

LOOK OUT, RAY! YOU'RE GONNA--

ARGH!

PUT PUT PUT PUT

AAAH!

SWEET DREAMS!

HELLO AGAIN, PRESTON.

C'MON. WE'D BETTER GET MOVING.

WE'RE EXPECTED.

SORRY, HONEY. THIS IS BY INVITE ONLY!

PUNT

LA SCALA HEATER

STRANGE STUFF, CLAY.

WITH ME IT WAS ONLY *MAKE-UP* -- A *MASK* OF GROTESQUERIE WORN TO HEIGHTEN THE *DRAMATIC EFFECT* OF MY MOVIES!

THOUGH I HID BEHIND CLAY, I WAS STILL ONLY A *MAN*.

BUT IT WAS DIFFERENT FOR *YOU*, EH, MATTHEW? YOURS WAS THE *TRUE* CLAY--THE *CLAY* OF *LIFE* ITSELF!

HOW WELL I KNOW THE STORY-- THE FREAKISH ACCIDENT THAT GAVE YOU YOUR PHENOMENAL ABILITY...

...THE ABILITY TO MOLD YOUR FEATURES INTO WHATEVER SHAPE YOU WISH ...TO VIRTUALLY *BECOME* ANOTHER PERSON!

BUT EVEN YOUR GREAT GIFT HAD ITS LIMITS. YOUR CLAY WAS MORTAL ... AND YOU PERISHED DURING THE CRISIS!

STILL--CLAY IS *MAGICAL* STUFF. SOME SAY IT WAS THE NECESSARY BRIDGE THAT BUILT *LIFE* ITSELF--THAT WITHOUT ITS *MINERALS*, ITS *SALTS*, ITS UNUSUAL PROPERTIES, NOTHING MORE SENTIENT THAN *STONES* WOULD HAVE EXISTED.

SPSH

15

AND NOW, MATTHEW, WE WILL PUT THAT THEORY TO THE TEST. FOR IF I UNDERSTAND MY SCIENCE, THE ADDITION OF PLAIN, SIMPLE *TAP WATER* WILL REPLACE ALL THE ORGANIC CONSTITUENTS NECESSARY FOR YOU TO *LIVE AGAIN*...

ALTHOUGH YOU SEEM TO HAVE LOST A LOT OF *BULK* WHEN YOU DRIED OUT!

NO MATTER! A THOUSAND TIMES BETTER TO BE A LIVE CLAY DWARF THAN A DEAD HEAP OF DUST!

THERE! NOW, *MATTHEW HAGEN*,-- A.K.A. *CLAYFACE TWO*--I BID YOU...

LIVE AGAIN!

SPLUD

SORRY, MATTHEW. YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO SIT THIS ONE OUT!

16

TRANQUILIZERS STARTED GETTING TO HIM RIGHT ABOUT HERE.

ARKHAM ASYLVM FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

SECURITY GUARDS DIDN'T MISS IT, EITHER. FOUR OF THEM. I JUST HOPE THEY DON'T CATCH HIM UP BEFORE--

THANK GOD--ONLY UNCONSCIOUS.

GUNNED EACH OTHER DOWN WITH THEIR OWN TRANKS, BY THE LOOK OF IT. STRANGE...

HELENA...HIS "GIRLFRIEND." NO SIGN OF PAYNE, THOUGH.

JUDGING BY THE IMPRINTS IN THE DAMP GRASS, HE FELL UNCONSCIOUS HERE. NO TRAIL LEADING AWAY...

SO WHERE DID HE--

A WOMAN!

A WOMAN? ARE YOU SURE, BATMAN?

17

HER FOOTPRINTS LED TO A DIRT TRACK. THERE'D BEEN A CAR STANDING THERE.

ADMINISTRATOR

IT'S UNLIKELY SHE WAS OUT FOR A STROLL AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT. I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME SHE WAS SOMEHOW INVOLVED IN PAYNE'S GETAWAY.

STRANGE THING IS, THERE WAS NO SIGN SHE'D *DRAGGED* HIS BODY AWAY-- AND IF SHE *CARRIED* HIM, HER FOOTPRINTS DIDN'T GET ANY DEEPER.

HMM. I WONDER IF THIS IS CONNECTED WITH HIS VISITOR?

VISITOR? PAYNE?

YES. THIS AFTERNOON. A LADY CALLED ON HIM-- ONE OF YOU SUPERHERO TYPES, I GUESS. FIRST HE'S HAD SINCE YOU BROUGHT HIM IN.

IT WAS MONITORED, OF COURSE. I'LL JUST ACCESS THE RECORDING.

EVIDENTLY SHE SAID SHE NEEDED INFORMATION FROM HIM-- TO DO WITH SOME CASE SHE WAS WORKING ON. BUT WHEN THEY MET, SHE DIDN'T SAY A WORD...

...SHE JUST SAT AND *STARED* AT HIM.

LOOKER!

YES, SHE CERTAINLY IS!

IT'S HER NAME. SHE WAS A MEMBER OF THE *OUTSIDERS* TEAM. BUT WHAT THE DEVIL WOULD *SHE* WANT WITH *PAYNE*?

FAR AS I KNOW, THEY'D NEVER MET. SO WHAT BROUGHT HER HERE...ON THE VERY DAY PAYNE ESCAPES?

18

THOSE FOOTPRINTS IN THE WOODS -- COULD HAVE BEEN HERS. PLUS THAT WOULD EXPLAIN WHY CLAYFACE WASN'T DRAGGED--LOOKER'S *TELEKINETIC*.

...THERE, *MR. STIRK!* YOU KEEP TAKING YOUR *PILLS* AND I BET YOU'LL BE OUT OF THAT JACKET IN NO TIME!

TREATMENT

BUT WHY?

WHY?

GUESS THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT. I'LL ASK HER.

MR. STIRK...?

MR. STIRK!

JEEP

HURRY UP!

SCALA THEATER

CAREFUL! YOU'LL--

--DROP HIM!

THUD

I GOT BACK JUST IN TIME. HER POWER'S WANING!

NEVER MIND. HERE, YOU ARE SAFE TO ADOPT YOUR ***TRUE*** FORM. HERE, YOU ARE WITH KINDRED SPIRITS...

...KINDRED ***CLAY!***

YOU HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITH HIM?

LIKE FALLING OFF A LOG! I GAVE HIM HIS ORDERS WHEN I VISITED THIS AFTERNOON, THEN WAITED IN THE WOODS TILL HE SHOWED UP.

HIS BEING HIT WITH THE TRANK-DARTS ONLY MADE THINGS EASIER.

I SEE ***YOU*** HAD YOUR PROBLEMS, THOUGH!

NO PROBLEM, I ASSURE YOU. AND THEY WON'T INTERFERE WITH OUR PLANS-- I COULDN'T SEE THEIR OWN ***MOTHERS*** REPORTING THESE TWO MISSING!

ANY JOY WITH HAGEN?

I APPROPRIATED HIS REMAINS EASILY ENOUGH. I SUBSTITUTED A BAG OF GARDEN SOIL, AS IF ANYONE WILL NOTICE!

BUT AS FOR RETURNING HIM TO LIFE... I'M AFRAID YOU WERE RIGHT. IT DIDN'T GO AS WELL AS I'D HOPED.

YEAH. I THOUGHT YOU WERE BEING KIND OF OPTIMISTIC!

IT'S DISAPPOINTING. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE ***FITTING***--MORE ***JUST***--IF ALL ***FOUR*** OF US COULD HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO WAIT FOR PAYNE TO COME ROUND?

NO POINT. HE'LL ONLY BE DOING WHAT ***YOU*** TELL HIM, ANYWAY!

20

MEN--AND WOMAN--OF CLAY! I CALL TO ORDER THIS, THE FIRST EVER MEETING OF OUR UNIQUE LITTLE GROUP.

SONDRA FULLER--LADY CLAY--CREATED BY THE ARCH-VILLAIN KOBRA TO BE THE FOURTH IN THE ILLUSTRIOUS LINE OF CLAYFACES!

PRESTON PAYNE--CLAYFACE THREE--A TRAGIC VICTIM OF HIS OWN DESIRE FOR SELF-IMPROVEMENT!

MATTHEW HAGEN--CLAYFACE TWO--WHOSE DEAREST WISH WAS MERELY TO FIND SOME SUNKEN TREASURE SHIP. HE GAVE UP HIS LIFE--BUT I KNOW HIS SPIRIT IS WITH US!

AND LASTLY, MYSELF--BASIL KARLO--CLAYFACE ONE..THE GREATEST ACTOR THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION: ONE--HOW WE, A VICTIMIZED MINORITY, CAN LAY CLAIM TO THE FAME AND FORTUNE THAT IS DESERVEDLY OURS.

TWO--HOW WE CAN ACQUIRE POWER BEYOND OUR WILDEST DREAMS!

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THREE-- HOW WE CAN FINALLY BEST THE CAPED CRUSADER, WHOSE VERY EXISTENCE EACH OF US HAS EVERY REASON TO HATE...

THE CURSED DARK KNIGHT OF GOTHAM CITY-- BATMAN!

AND FOUR--

HOW WE CAN KILL HIM!

SPLUT

NEXT ISH: THE BIG OOZE!

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THE ABBOTT™

PART 2 OF 4

ALAN GRANT
NORM BREYFOGLE
STEVE MITCHELL

COVER BY NORM BREYFOGLE

THE MUD PACK

PART TWO:

HEART of STEEL: FEET of CLAY?

ALAN GRANT	NORM BREYFOGLE	STEVE MITCHELL	TODD KLEIN	ADRIENNE ROY	DAN RASPLER	DENNY O'NEIL	BOB KANE
WRITER	PENCILLER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	ASSOC. EDITOR	EDITOR	CREATOR

OH, GROSS!

DREAMS LIKE THIS I CAN DO WITHOUT.

MUCH BETTER WHEN ITS HANDSOME HUNKS, OR COSMIC JOY-RIDING, OR EVEN RUNNING DOWN DARK CORRIDORS CHASED BY KOBRA AND HIS KILLING CREW--

STILL, ONE THING I'VE LEARNED SINCE I GOT MY PSI-POWERS IS, GO WITH THE FLOW. EVEN IN DREAMS, THINGS DON'T HAPPEN FOR NO GOOD REASON.

YOU NEVER KNOW HOW YOUR UNCONSCIOUS WILL TRY TO PASS ON ITS WISDOMS--ITS MESSAGES--

IT'S WARNINGS!

BUT HEY! ENOUGH'S ENOUGH. THIS IS MY DREAM. TIME I TOOK A LITTLE CONTROL--

UH-OH! IT USUALLY WORKS!

BONGGG BONGG

GREAT! THE DEATH-KNELL NOW!

OKAY, OKAY! I GIVE UP! WHY NOT JUST *TELL* ME WHAT IT IS I SHOULD KNOW!

ARKHAM ASYLVM FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

COME ON, *LIA!* ANSWER!

I KNOW YOU LIKE YOUR BEAUTY SLEEP-- BUT THIS IS *IMPORTANT!*

BONGGG RRRRINGGGG

I HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE! GOT TO WAKE MYSELF UP--

GOT-- TO WAKE--

3

UP!

RIINGGG

LIA? BATMAN.

UH... HELLO.

JEEZ! I WAS HAVING THE MOST *HIDEOUS* DREAM--

SAVE IT, LIA! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOU WERE DOING VISITING PRESTON PAYNE--THE THIRD *CLAYFACE*--IN *ARKHAM ASYLUM* YESTERDAY.

SAYS *WHO*? I NEVER *HEARD* OF THE GUY!

I'VE SEEN THE SECURITY VIDEO. YOU WERE THERE ALL RIGHT!

NOT ME, DARLING!

IF THIS IS ONE OF YOUR LITTLE GAMES--! HOW MANY OTHER GIRLS GO RUNNING ROUND IN COSTUMES LIKE YOURS?

NONE AT ALL, I HOPE--OR I'LL BE *CHANGING* IT!

ALTHOUGH... MAYBE THERE *IS* ONE...

REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE FIGHTING ON THE *OUTSIDERS* TEAM--WHEN *KOBRA* GOT HIS GANG TOGETHER. THEY INFILTRATED OUR H.Q.--USING A WOMAN WHO TOOK *MY* SHAPE AND STOLE *MY* POWERS--

--A WOMAN KOBRA HAD TURNED INTO A FOURTH *CLAYFACE*!

4

HMM. SHE ESCAPED WHEN WE BROKE UP THE GANG. GUESS IT COULD WELL HAVE BEEN HER OUT AT ARKHAM. BUT THE QUESTION STILL REMAINS--*WHY?*

DETECTIVE WORK'S *YOUR* LINE, DARLING-- UNLESS YOU WANT I SHOULD COME OVER AND LEND A HAND? LIFE HERE'S BEEN PRETTY BORING SINCE THE TEAM FOLDED AND ALL...

THANKS, LIA. BUT NO THANKS. I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF I NEED YOU.

SWEET DREAMS!

SWEET DREAMS?

KILLER MUD... AND NOW ESCAPED CLAYFACES?

SOMETHING'S *DEFINITELY* TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING!

THE FEMALE CLAYFACE... I GUESS IT MAKES SENSE. SHE VANISHED AFTER THE KOBRA DEBACLE--HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING OF HER SINCE.

MELBY'S JEWELERS

BUT PRESTON PAYNE IS A RAVING *MADMAN*. WHY THE DEVIL WOULD SHE WANT TO FREE *HIM*? WHERE ARE THEY NOW? WHAT ARE THEY *PLANNING*?

I DON'T LIKE IT. TOO MANY QUESTIONS... AND NOT EVEN A WHIFF OF AN ANSWER.

STILL, THE NIGHT HIDES OTHER MATTERS THAT REQUIRE MY ATTENTION--

TAP TAP

OH HELL!

SO WHY DON'T WE JUST *OFF* THE BATMAN FIRST, AND *THEN* MAKE WITH THE FABULOUS RICHES?

LA SCALA THEATER

YOU DISAPPOINT ME, MY DEAR. ***REVENGE*** IS A DISH ALWAYS BEST SERVED ***COLD***... AND CONSIDERABLY ***IMPROVED*** BY A LEAVENING OF ***HUMILIATION*** AND ***FRUSTRATION!***

YOU'RE YOUNG YET--YOU'LL LEARN. JUST BE PATIENT, AND USE YOUR TALENTS TO CARRY THROUGH OUR PLAN...

THOSE AMAZING TALENTS YOU'RE SO LUCKY TO POSSESS!

YEAH? YOU WANT 'EM, GO SEE KOBRA ABOUT IT.

TAKE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS --IT'S NOT NEARLY AS GREAT AS YOU THINK!

OH SURE, I CAN CHANGE INTO ANYONE I WANT--TO ALL INTENTS ***BECOME*** THAT PERSON. AND AFTER ***THE OUTSIDERS*** BROKE US UP, THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I DID. I LIVED LIKE A MOVIE STAR--

Imperial RESTAURANT

--ATE IN THE BEST RESTAURANTS--DRESSED FROM THE BEST BOUTIQUES --TASTED LIFE AT THE TOP...

...OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.

AND THAT WAS THE TROUBLE. ALL THE TIME I WAS ONLY ACTING-- ***PRETENDING***--STEALING ***OTHER*** PEOPLE'S PLEASURES. I NEVER GOT TO BE ***ME***.

6

"I GUESS I GOT BITTER ABOUT IT. MY WORSE NATURE STARTED TO SHOW THROUGH--"

MARRY ME, MY PRECIOUS, AND THE WORLD WILL BE YOURS!

D-DARLING...?

CHITTER SHLK

PLK CHKK

AAAAAAH!

"I REALIZED I DIDN'T BELONG TO THAT WORLD. I'M A *FREAK*--AN *OUTCAST*--BY NATURE AS WELL AS BY CHOICE!

"THEN I GOT TO THINKING ABOUT THAT TIME I VISITED YOU IN PRISON HOSPITAL--"

...WITH MY GENIUS AND YOUR POWERS, I COULD HAVE MY REVENGE, AND YOU--

"THAT'S WHY I WAS WAITING AT THE GATE WHEN THEY RELEASED YOU FROM PRISON. MAYBE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SPECIAL POWERS, BUT YOU'RE LIKE ME IN ONE WAY--*YOU'RE* AN OUTCAST, TOO.

GOTHAM CITY JAIL

"A *MURDERER*--SHUNNED BY SOCIETY--LOCKED AWAY TO *ROT* BY MEN WHO THINK THEY'RE YOUR BETTERS!"

7

MAKES SENSE FOR US FREAKS TO STICK TOGETHER--BUT THERE'S A *LIMIT*, SURELY. I MEAN--PAYNE'S CLINICALLY *INSANE*. WHAT POSSIBLE USE IS HE TO US?

HE IS *CLAY*, MY DEAR--EVEN *MORE* OF A FREAK THAN WE ARE! AND BESIDES, OUR PLAN REQUIRES HIM.

UUUUUUH!

AH, THE SLUMBERER STIRS!

QUICKLY! BETTER IF HE DOESN'T SEE YOU LIKE THAT!

WH-WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPP--

YOU!

YOU MADE ME HURT *HELENA!*

YOU LOOK LIKE AN ANGEL--BUT YOU GOT THE HEART OF A *DEVIL!* YOU PUT THINGS IN MY HEAD -- MADE ME *CRAZY!*

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND --SHE *HAD* TO FREE YOU SO--

SMAK

SHUT UP!

YOU'RE GONNA **PAY** FOR WHAT YOU DID, LADY! YOU...

YOU...

YOU'RE...

BEAUTIFUL!

IDIOT! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO--

NOW, NOW. REMEMBER HIS PART IN THE GREAT PLAN!

YOU'D BETTER TELL HIM WHAT HE HAS TO DO--AND MAKE SURE HE GETS IT STRAIGHT. HE'S FAR TOO DANGEROUS TO TAKE ANY CHANCES WITH!

DANGER: FALLING ROCKS

ANOTHER DAWN...ANOTHER NIGHT THAT DOESN'T END WITH THE COMING OF DAY.

POISON IVY KEEP OFF

9

NO MORE NEWS ON THE CLAYFACE ESCAPE. UNLESS LOOKER'S LYING--AND AS FAR AS I KNOW THAT'S NOT ONE OF HER VICES--HER "FOURTH CLAYFACE" THEORY'S THE BEST I'VE GOT.

DON'T SUPPOSE I'LL GET ANYTHING WORTHWHILE FROM MY COMPUTER FILES--BUT YOU NEVER KNOW...

CLAYFACE 4

REALNAME: UNKNOWN
ORIGIN: CREATED BY KOBRA
POWERS: LIKE CLAYFACE 2, ABLE TO MIMIC ANY FORM SHE CHOOSES. UNLIKE CLAYFACE 2, ALSO ABLE TO ABSORB THEIR PSYCHIC POWERS
STATUS: HIGH RISK

CLAYFACE 4

CLAYFACE 4

NO OTHER DATA

NO OTHER DATA

CLAYFACE 2... *MATT HAGEN.* AT LEAST *HE* CAN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS. HE LOST HIS LIFE DURING THE CRISIS...

NO OTHER DATA

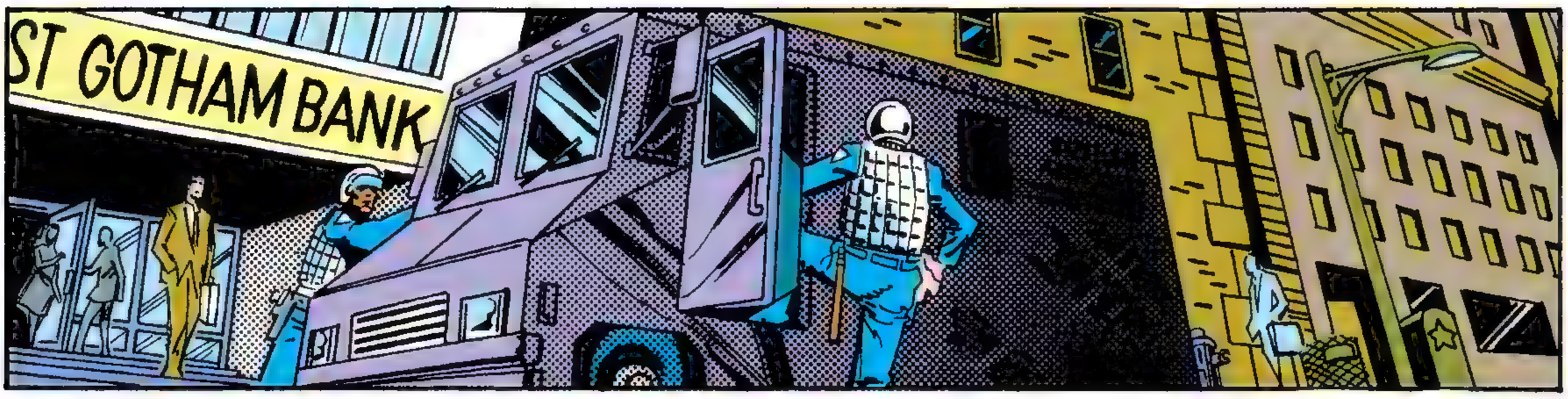
WAIT A MOMENT...! THERE WAS *ANOTHER* CLAYFACE...YEARS AGO--*BASIL KARLO,* THE OLD HORROR MOVIE ACTOR.

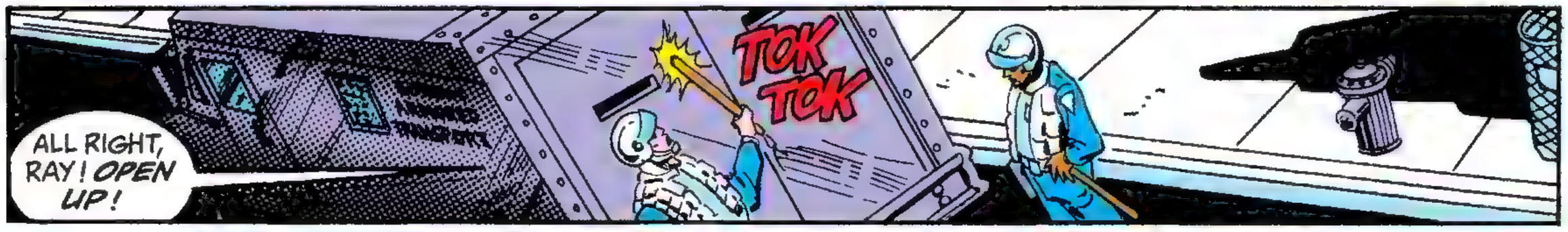
HE WAS JAILED AFTER I EXPOSED HIM FOR THE MURDERS OF SEVERAL CAST MEMBERS DURING THE REMAKE OF ONE OF HIS BOX-OFFICE HITS.

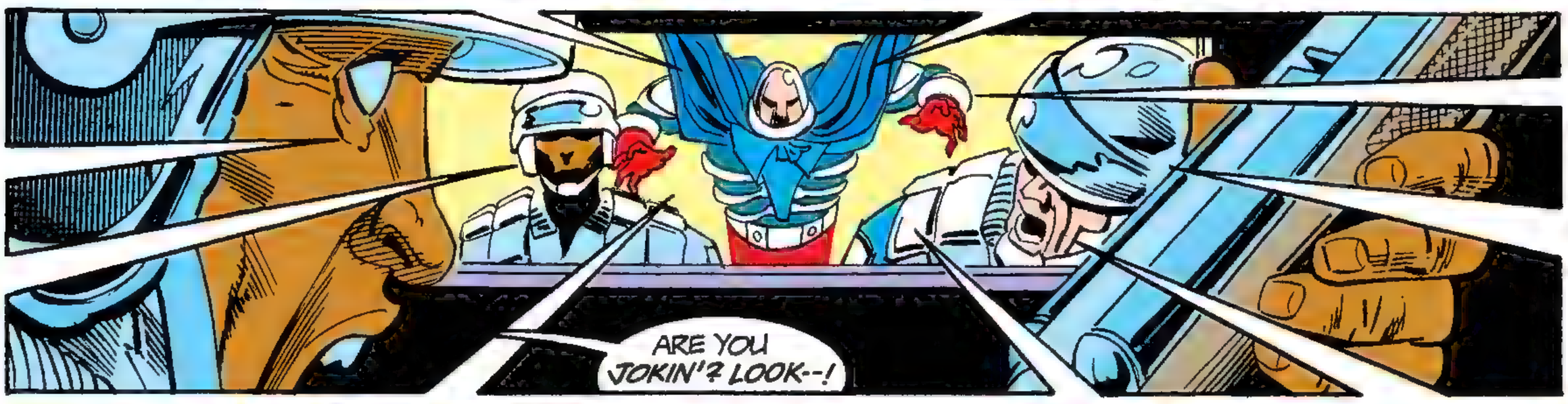
I WONDER...

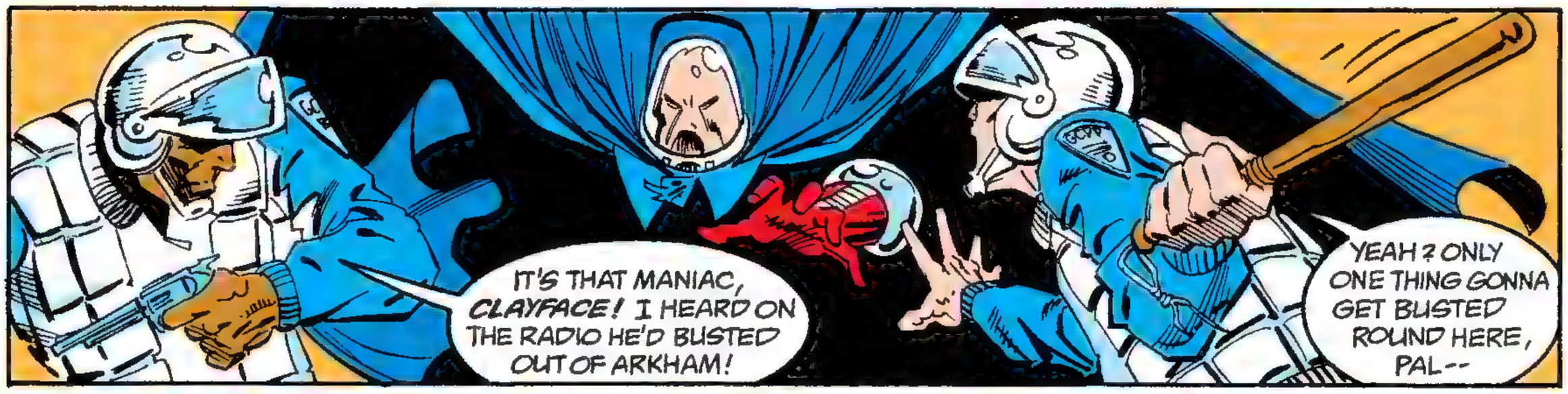
SERVED EIGHT YEARS, GOTHAM PEN. DUE FOR RELEASE ANY TIME NOW...

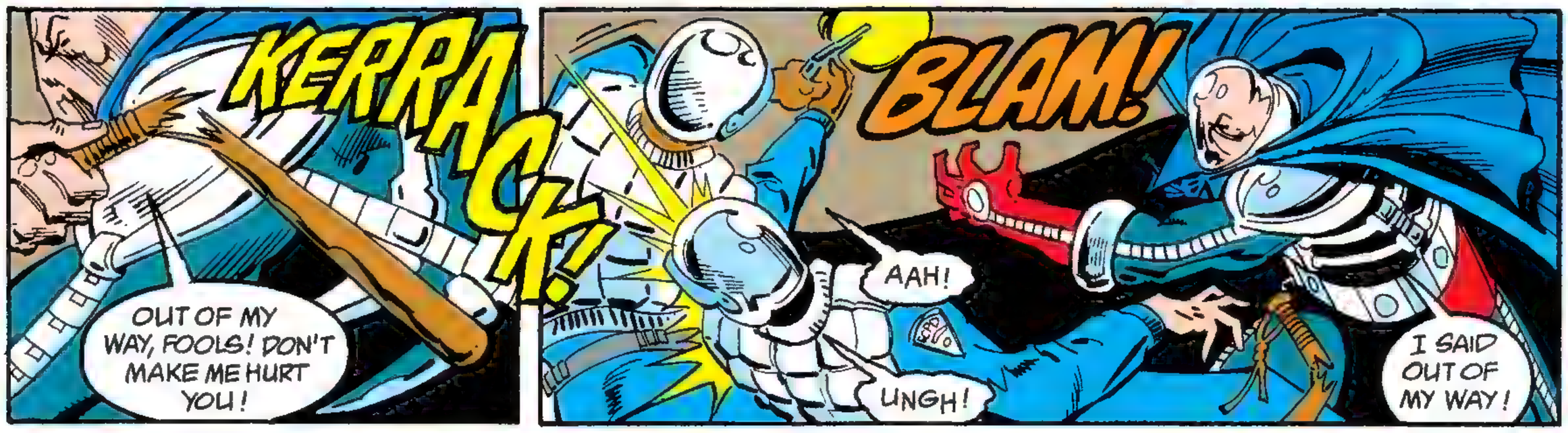
GOTHAM PENITENTIARY? I'D LIKE TO SPEAK TO THE WARDEN.

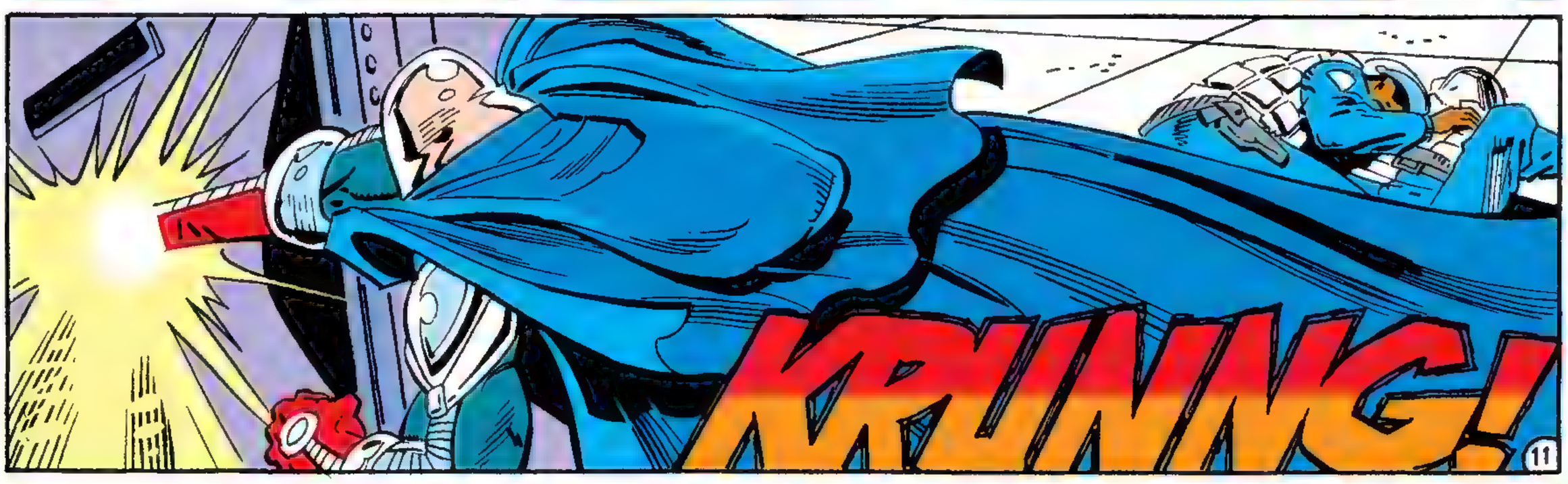

ST GOTHAM BANK


ALL RIGHT, RAY! OPEN UP!
TOK TOK


ARE YOU JOKIN'? LOOK--!


IT'S THAT MANIAC, CLAYFACE! I HEARD ON THE RADIO HE'D BUSTED OUT OF ARKHAM!
YEAH? ONLY ONE THING GONNA GET BUSTED ROUND HERE, PAL--


KERRACK!
OUT OF MY WAY, FOOLS! DON'T MAKE ME HURT YOU!
BLAM!
AAH!
UNGH!
I SAID OUT OF MY WAY!


KRUNG!
11

I--I'M WARNIN' YOU, MISTER! K-KEEP BACK FROM ME!

RRRIIPP

YAAAAAAAAHHH!

YOU! STOP OR WE SHOOT!

LOOK-- THERE!

BATMAN!

HEY! HE'S SWINGING STRAIGHT AT--

UUUUH!

AAGH!

HELP KEEP GOTHAM CLEAN

SPAK

MOVE IT, PARTNER! LET'S GET GOING!

B-BATMAN! THOSE GUYS YOU TOOK OUT ARE *COPS!* I--I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I JUST SAW!

BETTER BELIEVE IT--

CREEP!

...IT'S TOO MUCH OF A COINCIDENCE, COMMISSIONER! THE THREE OF THEM *HAVE* TO BE CONNECTED!

THE PRISON WARDEN SAYS KARLO WAS RELEASED THREE DAYS AGO--TO BE MET AT THE GATE BY SOME BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHO LOOKED LIKE *LOIS LANE*.

THE REPORTER?

OBVIOUSLY *CLAYFACE FOUR!*

FROM WHAT LITTLE WE KNOW OF HER, SHE'S A *FOLLOWER* RATHER THAN A LEADER. BUT IF WE SUPPOSE THAT IT'S BASIL KARLO--THE *ORIGINAL* CLAYFACE--GIVING THE ORDERS, THE WHOLE THING STARTS TO MAKE SOME SORT OF SENSE!

A CONSPIRACY OF CLAYFACES? SOUNDS HIGHLY UNLIKELY, BATMAN.

13

SO MAYBE KARLO *DID* THREATEN REVENGE ON YOU. BUT YOUR EVIDENCE IS PURELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL, AND EVEN IF--

COMMISSIONER!

B-BATMAN? BUT YOU *CAN'T* BE--!

I ASSURE YOU I AM, LIEUTENANT. WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?

WE GOT AN EMERGENCY DOWNTOWN. FIRST GOTHAM BANK'S JUST BEEN *ROBBED* BY CLAYFACE. UH...SEEMS SEVERAL EYEWITNESSES CLAIM, UH...CLAIM *YOU* HELPED HIM GET AWAY!

BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! BATMAN'S BEEN WITH ME--

OH. I SEE. CLAYFACE FOUR.

SORRY, BATMAN.

KITCH--GET ONTO THE PRESS DEPARTMENT. TELL THEM I WANT A RELEASE PREPARED ABSOLVING BATMAN OF ALL--

COMMISSIONER GORDON

NOT SO FAST, COMMISSIONER!

I'VE NEVER KNOWN PRESTON PAYNE TO USE HIS POWERS FOR PERSONAL GAIN. THAT'S NOT HIS STYLE. AND IF CLAYFACE FOUR IS INVOLVED, I'M SURE SHE DIDN'T DISGUISE HERSELF AS ME FOR OLD TIMES' SAKE.

SHE DID IT FOR GOOD REASON. TO *TAUNT* ME--*HUMILIATE* ME, PERHAPS.

WHATEVER, LET'S PLAY ALONG TILL WE FIND OUT EXACTLY WHAT'S GOING ON. LET THE MEDIA SAY WHAT THEY LIKE ABOUT ME FOR A WHILE.

IT WON'T BE THE FIRST TIME GOTHAM'S HATED ME!

14

LA SCALA THEATER

GOOD MORNING. IS THAT DR. LOWELL'S LABORATORY?

I'D LIKE TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT FOR LATER IN THE WEEK. I'M AFRAID I CAN'T BE MORE SPECIFIC. THINGS ARE RATHER, SHALL WE SAY-- CONTINGENT.

I'M SORRY. DR. LOWELL DOESN'T DEAL WITH PATIENTS PERSONALLY, AND HIS ASSISTANT HAS A FULL SCHEDULE FOR WEEKS.

NEVER MIND. I'LL POP IN ANYWAY-- JUST ON THE OFF-CHANCE.

BUT I'M TELLING YOU, THERE'S NO POINT! NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO SEE YOU!

HELLO? SIR?

CLICK.

OH, I THINK THE GOOD DOCTOR WILL SEE ME.

IN FACT, I'M *POSITIVE* HE WILL.

NOK NOK

AH! THE ROBBERS RETURN, UNLESS MY EARS DECEIVE ME!

WHAT?

YOU!

IT'S ONLY US, DUMMY!

UH--OF COURSE!

I...I HAD FORGOTTEN THE EFFECT THAT IMAGE CAN HAVE ON A MAN!

YOU DIDN'T GET RID OF *THEM* YET?

OH, THEY'RE DOING NO HARM. AND BESIDES--IT MAKES ME FEEL BETTER, HAVING AN *AUDIENCE!*

AH! BEAUTIFUL, BEAUTIFUL!

ANY IDEA HOW MUCH YOU GOT?

YOU THINK WE STOPPED TO *COUNT* IT?

RENCH

KLIK

ONLY ASKING, MY DEAR. NO NEED TO BE SO TOUCHY.

HERE, WE'LL SEE WHAT THE OFFICIAL FIGURES ARE...

...ROBBERY THIS MORNING, THE FIRST GOTHAM BANK HAS OFFERED A TEN-PERCENT REWARD AMOUNTING TO SOME $75,000.

MEANWHILE, THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE BATMAN'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE CRIME CONTINUES. SEVERAL EYEWITNESSES--

BATMAN...

THAT NAME... SPINNING ROUND IN MY HEAD! BATMAN...

YOUR PSI-COMMAND'S WEARING OFF!

SMASH!

ALWAYS I'M PLAGUED BY THE *BATMAN!*

16

YOU...BATMAN! YOU *TRICKED* ME! I'LL KILL--

OH, JEEZ! NOT AGAIN!

NOW HOLD YOUR HORSES, PAL! I'M NOT THE BATMAN...

AM I, DARLING?

HUH?

WHAT...WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO ME? MY EYES KEEP PLAYING TRICKS...HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE...

IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW. I'M HERE. I'LL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER

THERE... ISN'T THAT NICE? PAIN GOING?

YES... YES!

NOBODY MADE ME FEEL LIKE THIS BEFORE... NOT EVEN HELENA!

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN KEEP THIS UP, KARLO. PAYNE'S SEVERELY DISTURBED--PLAYIN' AROUND WITH HIS MIND ALL THE TIME CAN ONLY MAKE HIM *WORSE!*

IF HE FLIPS AND COMES AT US, I'M NOT SURE EVEN *I'LL* BE ABLE TO STOP HIM!

PITY. I HAD HOPED WE MIGHT SPEND A FEW DAYS *ENJOYING* THE PILLORYING OF OUR COMMON ENEMY. BUT PERHAPS IT IS BETTER TO STRIKE WHILE THE IRON IS HOT.

BATMAN IS FAR FROM STUPID. HE MAY ALREADY SUSPECT THAT WE ARE INVOLVED--THOUGH THAT KNOWLEDGE WILL AVAIL HIM NAUGHT.

WE BRING FORWARD OUR SCHEME.

IF HE SHOWS, YOU TAKE HIM *TONIGHT!*

17

WSSTAND

GOTHAM DAILY AND NEWS
BATMAN RUNS ROGUE!

READ ALL ABOUT IT! BATMAN HELPS CLAYFACE! FIVE INJURED!

TAND

HUH?

GOTHAM DAILY NEWS
BATMAN RUNS ROGUE!

TAND

KEEP THE CHANGE.

"BATMAN RUNS ROGUE--NO STATEMENT YET FROM THE POLICE DEPARTMENT--CITY HALL CALLS FOR S.W.A.T. TEAMS--"

ND

CHEEZ!

ALL THREE CLAYFACES HAVE GOOD REASON TO HATE ME--AND SOMEHOW I DOUBT THEY'LL BE SATISFIED WITH WHAT THEY'VE ALREADY DONE.

THE QUESTION IS, WHERE WILL THEY STRIKE --

--NEXT?

SAVE

Gotham Plaza's
CASINO NIGHT
TO BENEFIT GOTHAM'S HOMELESS!
WIN A TAX-FREE FORTUNE!

Gotham Plaza
CASINO NIGHT
Gotham Plaza
CASINO NIGHT
ALL RIGHT, DARLING. THIS IS IT! HOW YOU FEELING?
ALL ... RIGHT...
...DARLING!
SO LET'S DO IT!
I JUST HOPE THAT LOOKER'S PSI-POWERS ARE STRONGER THAN PAYNE'S HATRED OF THE BATMAN!
L-LOOK!
JUST LET US THROUGH! NOBODY INTERFERES, NOBODY GETS HURT!
AAAH!
YOU WERE WARNED, CHUMP!
19

BINGO!

IF I HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY HUNCH THAT PAID OFF, I'D BE AS RICH AS BRUCE WAYNE!

Gotham Plaza
CASINO NIGHT

YOU SHOULD'VE KNOWN NOT TO MESS WITH CLAYFACE AND THE CAPED CRUSADER, CREEP! LET HIM HAVE IT, PARTNER!

SWUMP!

UUUNGH!

SO...WE FLUSHED YOU OUT AFTER ALL! A LITTLE EARLY, MAYBE, BUT--

SAVE THE SPEECHES FOR THE JUDGE, LADY!

FWASH!

WHUNK!

PHYSICALLY, I'M NO MATCH FOR EITHER OF THEM. MY ONLY HOPE'S *SPEED*--KEEP THEM OFF-BALANCE SO THEY CAN'T HIT BACK!

WAK!

PAYNE'S *POWER PACK!* WITHOUT IT, HE'S NO BETTER THAN A LUMP OF *PUTTY!*

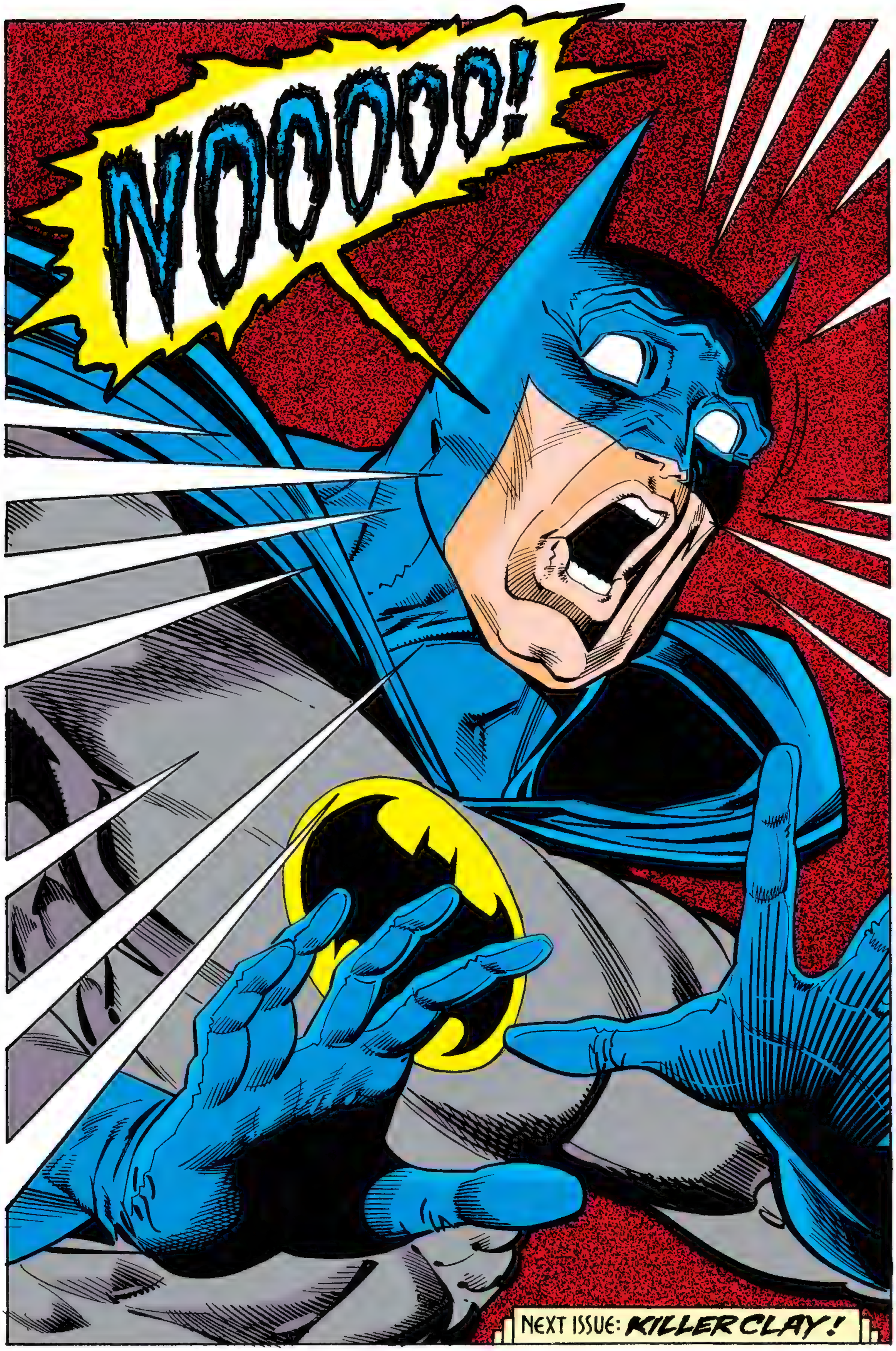
KLUD

IF I CAN JUST SWITCH IT OFF--

HEY, BATS!

WHO THE DEVIL--?

SAVE SOME FOR *ME,* HUH?


WOOOO!
NEXT ISSUE: KILLER CLAY!

Detective Comics®

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APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

GRANT
BREYFOGLE
MITCHELL

THE HUD PACK™

PART 3 OF 4

R.I.P.
ROBIN
Breyfogle

™

COVER BY NORM BREYFOGLE

THE MUD PACK

GOTHAM PLAZA CASINO

NIGHT

HEY, BATS! HOW 'BOUT LETTIN' *ME* IN ON THE ACTION?

R...*ROBIN*?

BUT--YOU *CAN'T* BE! *YOU CAN'T!*

PART THREE: KILLER CLAY!

CREATED BY *BOB KANE*

ALAN GRANT	NORM BREYFOGLE	STEVE MITCHELL	TODD KLEIN	ADRIENNE ROY	DAN RASPLER	DENNY O'NEIL
WRITER	PENCILLER	INKER	LETTERER	COLORIST	ASSOC. EDITOR	EDITOR

YEAH? THEN MAYBE YOU'RE JUST *IMAGINING* THIS!

FAK!

ROBIN IS *DEAD*. INTELLECTUALLY, I KNOW IT'S JUST A CLAYFACE TRICK. BUT EMOTIONALLY, IT'S A SHOCK--

NOTHING LIKE A BOOT IN THE HEAD FOR BRINGING A MAN TO HIS SENSES!

CLAYFACE FOUR DOESN'T JUST *MIMIC* HER VICTIMS--SHE'S ABLE TO EXHIBIT THEIR *ABILITIES*, TOO!

THAP

UNFORTUNATELY FOR HER--

POW

ROBIN IS ONLY A *KID*!

WAS ONLY A KID.

2

FOR AN INSTANT, I'M ALMOST OVERWHELMED BY MEMORY--

--THE BITTERNESS OF DEFEAT--

--THE FUTILITY OF A WASTED YOUNG LIFE--

AND IN MY JOB, THOSE ARE LUXURIES I CAN'T AFFORD--

SLAM!

CLAYFACE THREE'S *EXO-SKELETON* GIVES HIM MASSIVE STRENGTH. LUCKY HE DIDN'T SNAP MY SPINE--

GOT TO GET...

UUUUH!

THOK

TOO MANY TIMES YOU'VE PLAGUED ME, *BATMAN*-- PRETENDING YOU WANTED TO *HELP* ME, ALL THE TIME *TAUNTING* ME!

NOW YOU *PAY!*

AIN DRUGS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN I NEED A PRE-SCRIPTION?
DANCING!
GIRLS GIRLS GIRLS!
THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, YOU CRETIN! I'M A DOCTOR! NOW HAND OVER THOSE DRUGS!
PRESCRIPTIONS
I'M SORRY, DOCTOR-- BUT YOU KNOW THE PROCEDURE. I HAVE TO FILE THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION.
PRESCRIPTIONS
OH, VERY WELL. HERE -- I THINK I HAVE THE FORMS
AH YES...
Champagne
SLASH
OOPS! CLUMSY ME!
MAIN DRU
MY MOTHER WAS WRONG. I'D NEVER HAVE MADE A GOOD DOCTOR!
JEEZ! HE PACKS SOME PUNCH!
OHMYGOD! HE'S GOING TO KILL THE BATMAN!
4

PAYNE! NO!

YOU'RE GOING TO BURN! BURRNNN!

WHO... WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

NEVER MIND, PAL!

THBASH!

BASH BASH BASH

I GOT AS MUCH REASON AS YOU FOR WANTIN' REVENGE ON THE BATMAN -- BUT WE PLAY IT STRICTLY ACCORDIN' TO PLAN!

CAPEESH?

I TOLD KARLO THAT PAYNE'S TOO *CRAZY* TO MONKEY WITH! WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE INVOLVED HIM!

STILL, I GOT THE POOR SAP INTO THIS. I CAN'T JUST DITCH HIM...

WREEOOEEOOOEE

RRENCH

YOU TOO, MASKED MAN! THIS WHOLE THING'S BEEN STAGED FOR YOUR BENEFIT...

EEEOOOEEE

NO--DON'T SHOOT! SHE--IT--IT'S GOT THE BATMAN!

YOUR TROUBLES ARE ONLY *STARTIN'*!

THEY'VE *WHAT?*

GOTHAM CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

CAPTURED THE BATMAN, SIR! CLAYFACES--TWO OF THEM--DOWN AT THE *CASINO!*

HE SHOULD HAVE HEEDED HIS OWN WARNING!

ANY IDEA WHERE THEY'VE TAKEN HIM?

NO, SIR. SEEMS THE FEMALE WARPED INTO SOME GIANT BIRD AND FLEW OFF WITH THE OTHERS. I'VE PUT ALL UNITS ON ALERT.

GOOD MAN.

BETWEEN THEM, THE CLAYFACES HAVE REASON ENOUGH TO KILL BATMAN TEN TIMES OVER. *GOD* ALONE KNOWS *WHAT* THEY'LL DO TO HIM!

LET ME KNOW AS SOON AS THERE'S ANY NEWS.

AND ONE OTHER THING, KITCH--BRIEF THE PRESS. LET THEM KNOW IT WAS A CLAYFACE *DISGUISED* AS BATMAN WHO ROBBED THAT BANK THIS MORNING.

IF THE UNTHINKABLE HAPPENS--IF BATMAN DIES--IT'LL BE AS HE LIVED...

...*A HERO.*

LA SCALA THEATER

MORE TROUBLE WITH PAYNE?

HE WENT CRAZY--WANTED TO OFF BATMAN ON THE SPOT. I HAD TO HIT HIM PRETTY HARD.

NO MATTER. HIS PART IN THIS IS ALMOST OVER...

IT'S BATMAN'S TURN TO TAKE CENTER-STAGE!

THE WOLFMAN

ALL THOSE YEARS ROTTING IN JAIL, I DREAMED OF A NIGHT LIKE THIS...A NIGHT WHEN *HE* WOULD BE AT *MY* MERCY--AND I WOULD PAY HIM BACK IN *PAIN* FOR WHAT HE DID TO ME!

NOW, MY DEAR, IF YOU'D BE SO KIND...IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO PLAY *LOOKER* AGAIN.

GEEZ! I GOT INVOLVED IN THIS LITTLE CAPER SO'S I COULD *STOP* MIMICKING OTHER PEOPLE AND JUST BE *MYSELF!*

PATIENCE! THE FINAL SCENE APPROACHES--WE MUST ALL PLAY OUT OUR PARTS.

SO... WHAT DO I DO?

YOU USE YOUR *PSIONIC POWERS* TO ENTER HIS *MIND*...

SIFT THROUGH HIS MEMORIES.

FIND EVERYTHING HE *HATES*-- *FEARS*-- *DESPISES*-- *LOATHES!*

FIND THEM... STIMULATE THEM... ARRANGE THEM... AND WHEN HE WAKES...

LET THE TERROR BEGIN!

BATMAN?

COME ON! WAKE UP!

THAT'S BETTER!

REMEMBER ME?

CAN'T MOVE...TIED SOMEHOW! HEAD SWIMMING...CAN'T THINK. NO OPTION, BUT TO PLAY ALONG--

BASIL KARLO-- THE *ORIGINAL* CLAYFACE!

I GUESSED YOU WERE BEHIND THIS!

I SEE I WAS RIGHT ABOUT THE LADY, TOO. SO WHERE'S *PRESTON PAYNE*--OUT DOING MORE KILLING FOR YOU?

HE'S OUT ALL RIGHT.

BUT FOR THE *COUNT*, RATHER THAN FOR THE KILLING! TOO UNPREDICTABLE BY HALF.

LIKE POOR *MATTHEW HAGEN*-- OR WHAT LITTLE'S LEFT OF HIM-- HE'S GOING TO MISS THE GRAND FINALE!

BUT *YOU* WON'T. IN FACT, YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE *STAR*... IN YOUR VERY OWN *HORROR MOVIE!*

START THE FILM, MY DEAR.

10

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR GAME IS, KARLO--BUT THERE'S STILL TIME TO *STOP* THIS MADNESS BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT!

STOP THE MADNESS? MY DEAR BATMAN, THE MADNESS IS ONLY JUST ABOUT TO *BEGIN!*

CAST YOUR MIND BACK MANY YEARS--TO THE DAY YOU ARRESTED ME AND LOCKED ME AWAY. THEY WERE MAKING A MOVIE--OR, RATHER, *RE*-MAKING IT.

BASIL KARLO IS...

THE TERROR!

HEAD'S... SPINNING! LIKE-- LIKE I'VE BEEN HYPNOTI!!...

MY MOVIE. MY GREATEST TRIUMPH. MY FINEST HOUR AS AN ACTOR!

I *WAS* THE TERROR...

AND NOW, BATMAN...*THE TERROR* IS FOR *YOU!*

GOTHAM CITY... HIDEOUS PLACE!

IT'S SO...THRUSTING, AGGRESSIVE, UGLY. NOTHING AT ALL LIKE L.A.'S CLEAN, DIAMOND ELEGANCE.

STILL, ONE NIGHT'S BEAUTY SLEEP'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TO LOSE. TWO, AND I GET KIND OF *TWITCHY!*

TAP TAP

THE WINDOW, SIR--!

BATMAN...?

EVEN BETTER, DARLING. THE NAME'S *LOOKER.*

LOOKER?

CLAYFACE, YOU MEAN! YOU'RE UNDER ARREST, LADY!

DON'T BE SILLY. PUT THE GUN AWAY. YOU DON'T WANT TO HURT ME...

...DO YOU, HANDSOME?

NO. PUT... GUN... AWAY.

I'M THE ***REAL*** LOOKER, COMMISSIONER--AN OLD FRIEND OF BATMAN'S FROM HIS ***OUTSIDER*** DAYS. ANY IDEA WHERE I'LL FIND HIM?

I--I'M AFRAID NOT. HE'S BEEN... TAKEN.

CLAYFACES?

YOU KNOW?

I GUESSED. I ***DREAMT*** ABOUT KILLER CLAY LAST NIGHT. THEN BATMAN CALLED TO SAY ***CLAYFACE THREE*** WAS ON THE LOOSE.

12

HE ALSO TOLD ME CLAYFACE FOUR MIGHT BE POSING AS ME. WHEN I READ THE HEADLINE ABOUT BATMAN ***RUNNING ROGUE***, I ALTERED MY COSTUME, AND CAME STRAIGHT HERE.

WHERE DID THEY GET HIM?

AT THE PLAZA. CLAYFACE FOUR FLEW OFF WITH HIM. NO POINT YOU GOING THERE, THOUGH -- MY MEN HAVE COMBED THE AREA. NOT A SINGLE CLUE!

OH, I DON'T KNOW, DARLING...

THEY WON'T HAVE LOOKED THE WAY I WILL!

DON'T...LIKE THIS PLACE.

REEKS OF VIOLENCE ...OF EVIL!

DON'T KNOW...WHY I'M HERE. MUST BE A REASON...

WHAT...?

MY *PARENTS*-- THE CHILD I WAS --

BLAM BLAM

NO! NOT AGAIN--

--NOT AGAIN...!

FUTILITY.

ALL MY LIFE, HAUNTED... BY SENSELESS VIOLENCE... SENSELESS DEATH...

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

MADNESS!

STOP! STOP!

BLAM!

MY FRIENDS...

GRIEF...

GUILT...

FEAR!

THINK IT'S WORKIN'?

INDEED! JUST LOOK AT HIM--RELIVING EVERY *NIGHTMARE EXPERIENCE* HE'S EVER HAD... HIS MUCH-VAUNTED *WILLPOWER* BEING *SHREDDED* BY EVERY FEAR--EVERY FAILURE HE EVER KNEW!

THIS CALLS FOR CELEBRATIONS, MY DEAR!

CHAMPAGNE?

15

HEY, I'M YOUR LADY!

A TOAST, MY DEAR...

TO *REVENGE*-- AND THE REALIZATION OF ALL OUR DREAMS!

CHNK

WITH BATMAN OUT OF THE PICTURE -- PARDON THE PUN!-- GOTHAM IS OURS FOR THE TAKIN'!

I CAN'T HELP WORRYIN' ABOUT PRESTON PAYNE, THOUGH.

I MEAN, WHAT ARE WE GONNA *DO* WITH HIM?

OH, YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, MY DEAR.

WHAT? HUH...?

DRINK... *SPIKED!*

Y...YOU! YO...U...

CHSH

16

ME INDEED!

SURELY YOU DIDN'T THINK RICHES AND REVENGE WOULD BE ENOUGH FOR ONE SUCH AS I?

AS I SAID BEFORE--*MY GENIUS* AND *YOUR POWER* WILL INDEED MAKE A FORMIDABLE TEAM--

--BUT MUCH BETTER IF THEY'RE CONCENTRATED IN THE *ONE BODY!*

AND YOU TOO, MR. PRESTON PAYNE. YOUR POWERS ARE *FAR* TOO POTENT TO BE WASTED ON A *LUNATIC!*

I BID YOU FAREWELL, MY FRIENDS.

DO ENJOY THE SHOW!

17

THEY SURE HAD THEMSELVES A PARTY HERE. THERE'S BOUND TO BE SOMETHING...

UH-HUH.

LOOKS LIKE LADY CLAY LEFT A LITTLE OF HERSELF BEHIND.

PSYCHOMETRY'S NOT SOMETHING I'VE USED MUCH BEFORE--READING THE PSYCHIC IMPRINTS PEOPLE LEAVE IN EVERYTHING THEY TOUCH.

LA SCALA THEATER

WORKS, THOUGH!

GUESS I'M GOING TO THE MOVIES!

I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN I COULD NEVER WIN.

HA HA HA

"I WONDER... WHEN DID I STEP OVER?"

uuuUUUH...

WHAT...? WHAT WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON?

OHHH...

YOU! THE BROAD THAT BEAT ME UP!

YOU BETTER HAVE A GOOD EXPLANATION, SISTER--OR I'M GONNA SPREAD YOU ALL OVER GOTHAM!

OKAY, OKAY, PAYNE! I'LL LEVEL WITH YOU.

I ADMIT IT--I TRICKED YOU. I PRETENDED I WAS SOMEONE ELSE, USED HER PSIONIC POWERS TO *HYPNOTIZE* YOU INTO DOIN' WHAT WE WANTED.

WE? WHO ELSE?

BASIL KARLO-- THE VERY FIRST CLAYFACE.

BUT DON'T TAKE IT TOO HARD. YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE **WHO** WAS SUCKERED. KARLO FOOLED ***ME***, TOO. ALL HE WANTED ALL ALONG WAS TO STEAL SAMPLES OF OUR ***BLOOD*** --TO TAKE ***OUR*** POWERS FOR ***HIMSELF!***

BELIEVE ME, I'M SORRY I EVER GOT YOU INVOLVED.

SO GO AHEAD-- BEAT UP ON ME. I WON'T FIGHT BACK. I'M TIRED OF FIGHTIN' --TIRED OF ***PRETENDIN'*** ALL THE TIME--

TIRED OF TRYIN' TO BE EVERYBODY ELSE BUT =sob= ***ME!***

HEY! HEY!

20

IT'S ME SHOULD BE SORRY. I... WOULDN'T HAVE HURT YOU. I WAS JUST ANGRY.

COME ON-- DON'T CRY. YOU'LL MAKE YOUR FACE RUN...

AND I KIND OF LIKE IT JUST THE WAY IT IS.

BAAOO HOOO

N,..NOTHIN'. IT'S JUST...

NOBODY EVER SAID ANYTHIN' LIKE THAT TO ME BEFORE--NOT TO THE *REAL* ME!

The End

HEY! WHAT HAVE I DONE *NOW?*

WELL, SO YOU KNOW I'M NOT JUST WHISTLIN' DIXIE ...

SHOW'S OVER.

COME ON. LET'S GET SOME FRESH AIR.

LA SCALA THEATER

DEFINITELY! THIS IS IT!

SOMEBODY'S STUCK IN A TIME WARP! THIS STUFF GOES BACK *DECADES.*

WHAT'S THAT NOISE?

BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN

Dracula

WHUK WHUK WHUK WHUK

21

WHUK WHUK WHUK WH

LOOKS LIKE I MISSED THE MAIN FEATURE.

PROJECTION ROOM

WOULDN'T YOU JUST KNOW IT? HERE'S ME READY TO PARTY, AND EVERYBODY'S GONE HOME!

NOT QUITE EVERYBODY--

BATMAN!

BATMAN...?

OH MY GOD!

CONCLUDES NEXT ISSUE: THE CHINA CLAY SYNDROME!

FREE FULL-COLOR BATMAN® MINI-POSTER INSIDE!

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Detective® COMICS

607

THE MUD PACK

PART 4 OF 4™

ALAN GRANT
NORM BREYFOGLE
STEVE MITCHELL

COVER BY NORM BREYFOGLE

THE MUD PACK

THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON *BASIL KARLO* STOLE OUR *BLOOD*, PRESTON--HE'S PLANNIN' TO TURN *HIMSELF* INTO A *GENUINE CLAYFACE!*

MORE FOOL HIM!

YEAH. STILL, I COULD CHEERFULLY *MURDER* THE TREACHEROUS LITTLE RAT!

PART FOUR:

THE *CHINA CLAY* SYNDROME

ALAN GRANT WRITER
NORM BREYFOGLE PENCILS
STEVE MITCHELL INKS
TODD KLEIN LETTERS
ADRIENNE ROY COLORS
DAN RASPLER ASST. EDITOR
DENNY O'NEIL EDITOR
BOB KANE CREATOR
LOOKER CREATED BY MIKE BARR & JIM APARO

WHEN I THINK OF THE WAY I LET HIM *CON* ME--JEEZ! I *HELPED* HIM TO ROB ME OF MY OWN POWERS!

YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR MIND--GO BACK AND LOOK FOR HIM?

NO, I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF HIS *MUD PACK* CRUD. EVER SINCE *KOBRA* CHANGED ME, IT'S BEEN THE SAME--PEOPLE PROMISIN' ME THE WORLD, AN' ENDIN' UP BY *RIPPIN'* ME *OFF!*

I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU MEAN.

BUT MAYBE IT DOESN'T *HAVE* TO BE LIKE THAT...

NO. MAYBE IT DOESN'T.

YOU KNOW, I'VE NEVER SEEN THE DAWN BEFORE.

I MEAN, I'VE *SEEN* IT, BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY *NOTICED* IT...

IT'S BEAUTIFUL...

IT FIGURES. IN THIS CITY, EVEN SUNRISE IS *UGLY.*

LA SCALA THEATER

I WISH IT WAS YESTERDAY. OR TOMORROW.

I WISH I WAS HOME. OR ON THE MOON. ANYWHERE AT ALL EXCEPT GOTHAM CITY, HERE AND NOW.

2

OH COME ON, LIA! I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GETTING SO UPSET ABOUT. YOU'VE BEEN INSIDE MINDS BEFORE. DOZENS OF TIMES...

YES. DOZENS OF TIMES. BUT THIS ONE'S DIFFERENT. THIS ONE'S A *FIRST.*

THIS ONE'S A *LEGEND.*

WHAT IF IT ALL GOES *WRONG?*

WHAT IF I GET IN THERE AND FIND I CAN'T *UNDO* WHATEVER IT WAS THE CLAYFACES *DID* TO HIM? WHAT IF I MAKE A MISTAKE? WHAT IF...?

BUT WHAT-IFS ARE FOR THE FUNNY BOOKS.

MOVE OVER, DARLING...

COMPANY'S COMING!

3

IT'S THE WEIRDEST EXPERIENCE IMAGINABLE, WALKING THROUGH ANOTHER PERSON'S MIND.

THEIR MEMORIES-- THEIR FEELINGS-- THEIR THOUGHTS.

YOUR THOUGHTS.

YOU RECOGNIZE THINGS. YOU SAY "HEY! THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I FELT WHEN--"

AND, "SHEESH! I NEVER REALIZED OTHER PEOPLE THOUGHT--"

YOU SEE HOW **CLOSE** WE REALLY ARE TO EACH OTHER...

AND HOW TOTALLY **ALIEN.**

THEY CAPER ROUND HIM, GIBBERING AND DROOLING AND SHRIEKING. AND THREATENING... A LIFETIME'S ENCOUNTERS WITH THE FORCES OF MADNESS.

THEY'RE NOT REAL--THEY'RE HYPNOSIS-INDUCED **PHANTASMS**, SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE BATMAN. THEY CAN'T HARM ME...

...BUT I CAN **DESTROY THEM.**

HE'S FROZEN, CATATONIC, DRIVEN TO THE LAST DEEP REFUGE OF HIMSELF UNDER THE CLAYFACE'S PSYCHIC ASSAULT.

BUT AT HIS CENTER HE'S A ROD OF STEEL, WAITING FOR HIS CHANCE TO STRIKE BACK.

WAITING FOR THE MADNESS TO PASS.

WHAT'S UNDONE CAN BE DONE AGAIN. WHAT'S BROKEN CAN BE MENDED. HE ONLY NEEDS A HELPING HAND--

LIA...?

LIA...?

WELCOME HOME, DARLING!

Whew... MY BRAIN FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN DUNKED IN AN *ACID BATH!*

THAT JUST ABOUT SUMS IT UP. GOOD THING YOU LOOK AFTER YOUR *MIND* AS WELL AS YOUR *BODY*--OR YOU'D BE WEARING A *STRAIT-JACKET* RATHER THAN THE CAPE AND EARS!

THANKS, LIA. THAT'S ONE I OWE YOU.

YOU'D HAVE TO COME OUT OF IT SOONER OR LATER. I DIDN'T DO MUCH.

THE CLAYFACES-- DID YOU...?

5

'FRAID NOT, DARLING. THEY WERE BOTH GONE--

THREE. THERE ARE THREE OF THEM. BASIL KARLO, THE VERY FIRST CLAYFACE, IS RUNNING THE SHOW!

WHATEVER, I DECIDED IT WAS MORE IMPORTANT TO HELP YOU THAN TRY TO PICK UP THEIR TRAIL.

STILL, IT MIGHT NOT BE COLD ON US YET.

THEY LEFT THIS CLAY DOLL BEHIND... WITH A LITTLE LUCK, IT'LL TELL US WHERE THEY ARE!

SORRY. LOTS OF IMAGES-- BUT THEY ALL RUN INTO EACH OTHER, JUST LIKE CLAY. I CAN'T PIN DOWN ANYTHING SPECIFIC.

I SUPPOSE WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR THEM TO SHOW THEIR HAND AGAIN--

WE CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT! TOO MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN HURT ALREADY.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO PICK UP A TRAIL...

SQUEAK

SNF.

SO...WHAT'S THE VERDICT, SHERLOCK?

6

JUDGING BY THE CHAMPAGNE, THEY WERE *CELEBRATING* MY CAPTURE. THE UPTURNED GLASS WAS HELD BY A WOMAN -- *CLAYFACE FOUR.*

SHE DROPPED IT BECAUSE SHE *COLLAPSED*-- THE DRINK WAS LACED WITH A POWERFUL BARBITRATE. AND WHEN I SAW PRESTON PAYNE, *HE* WAS SEDATED TOO!

THERE ARE TRACES OF *BLOOD* WHERE SHE FELL, AND ON PAYNE'S SEAT--BUT NOT IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITIES TO SUGGEST A FIGHT.

ALL VERY IMPRESSIVE, DARLING-- BUT WHAT DOES IT *MEAN?*

I CAN'T BE SURE, BUT TRY THIS: KARLO'S DOUBLE-CROSSED HIS PARTNERS. HE DRUGGED THEM, THEN DREW OFF SAMPLES OF THEIR BLOOD.

WHY ON EARTH WOULD HE WANT TO DO *THAT?*

MAYBE HE WANTS TO BECOME A *REAL* CLAYFACE?

LA SCALA THEATER

KARLO'S NO BIOLOGIST. IF I'M RIGHT, HE HAS TO BE HEADED FOR SOMEWHERE WITH A BLOOD LAB--*S.T.A.R.*, MAYBE, OR *GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL.*

YOU TAKE S.T.A.R.--YOU'LL GET THERE FASTER!

WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER TWO CLAYFACES?

NO SAYING *WHERE* THEY ARE. LET'S FIND KARLO FIRST--

MAYBE HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL US!

7

DOCTOR LOWELL?

RESEARCH

GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

WHAT--?

OH, YOU STARTLED ME! HOW--HOW DID YOU GET IN HERE? YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED--

HAEMATOLO

IT'S NOT EXACTLY HIGH SECURITY.

NOW--IF WE CAN GET DOWN TO BUSINESS...

O-OHMYGOD!

WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT? THERE'S NO MONEY--

LOWELL

NOTHING SO MUNDANE, MY DEAR DOCTOR! IT IS YOUR *SKILL* I REQUIRE--YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF *BLOOD!*

HAEMETOLOGY

SPECIFICALLY, I WANT YOU TO *COMBINE* THE CONTENTS OF THESE--AND THEN *INJECT* ME WITH THE RESULTING MIXTURE.

WHAT? DON'T BE *RIDICULOUS!* DO YOU KNOW THE *RISKS* INVOLVED IN--

YOU LET *ME* WORRY ABOUT THAT, DOCTOR. *YOU* JUST WORRY ABOUT THE RISKS INVOLVED IN *REFUSING!*

TAP TAP

I'LL BE GLAD TO TOUCH DOWN AGAIN...

S.T.A.R. LABS

ALL THIS FLYING'S GETTING TO BE A REAL DRAIN ON THE BRAIN!

OKAY, LADY! THIS IS PRIVATE PROPERTY! STATE YOUR BUSINESS!

RELAX, HANDSOME. I'M ON YOUR SIDE.

MAIN ENTRANC

I'M AFTER THE ESCAPED *CLAYFACES*. THOUGH I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'VE SEEN THEM, OR YOU WOULDN'T BE STANDING AROUND HERE!

MIND IF I TAKE A QUICK *PSYCHIC LOOK*, JUST TO BE SURE?

MIND IF I SLAM YOUR BUTT IN THE POKEY, LADY? 'COS THAT'S WHAT I'M *GOING* TO DO IF YOU AIN'T *OUTTA HERE!*

I GIVE IT THE ONCE-OVER ANYWAY. THERE'S A LOT OF NOT VERY NICE THINGS IN THERE--BUT NONE OF THEM ARE MADE OUT OF CLAY.

YOU EXPRESS YOURSELF SO WELL, DARLING!

SEE YOU AROU--

OOPS!

I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GIVE MY POWERS TIME TO RECOVER...

UH...THIS IS A LITTLE EMBARRASSING--

--BUT COULD ONE OF YOU CALL ME A *CAB?*

9

RESEARCH

EXTRAORDINARY!

IMAGING MICROSCOPE

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM! THIS ONE'S MORE AKIN TO SOME *MINERAL VIRUS* THAN IT IS BLOOD...

...AND THE *OTHER*-- WHY, IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE!* IT *CAN'T* EXIST!

YOU MUST BE *INSANE!* DO YOU HAVE THE FAINTEST *IDEA* WHAT AN INFUSION OF THESE COULD *DO* TO YOU?

INDEED I HAVE, DOCTOR.

BLEND THEM!

I--I CAN'T ALLOW YOU TO GO THROUGH WITH THIS --!

IT'S THAT OR DEATH, DOCTOR!

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVE...

MADNESS!

MIXER

IT'S NOT BLOOD! MORE... *PROTOPLASM*-- AS IF IT HAS A LIFE OF ITS OWN!

SORRY, BATMAN. THERE'S BEEN NO SIGN OF HIM HERE.

ENTRANCE

RECEPTION

THE BLOOD LAB STAFF DON'T START UNTIL NINE--BUT *DOCTOR LOWELL'S* USUALLY IN EARLY. I'LL CHECK WITH HIM...

...N-NO. EVERYTHING'S ALL RIGHT HERE. WHY-- WHY SHOULDN'T IT BE?

HE'S ALONE. SORRY, BATMAN-- THOUGH I'M NOT, REALLY. I MEAN, WE ALREADY HAVE FIVE CLAYFACE *VICTIMS* IN HERE-- THE PERPETRATORS WE CAN DO *WITHOUT*!

RECEPTION

THANKS. JUST CALL THE POLICE ANYWAY--ASK THEM TO SEND SOME MEN, JUST IN CASE.

AND TELL THEM TO LET THE COMMISSIONER KNOW *I'M* BACK ON THE JOB!

EXIT

PITY! I FIGURED THIS'D BE A MORE LIKELY TARGET THAN S.T.A.R.--EASIER TO GET IN.

HOPE IT DOESN'T MEAN I'VE SENT LIA SLAP-BANG INTO--

WHAT?

RES

SHE SAID THE DOC WAS *ALONE!*

MAY GOD FORGIVE ME!

AHHHH...

ALREADY I FEEL IT COURSING THROUGH ME--*MINGLING* WITH MY OWN BLOOD--*CHANGING* ME...

DEAR LORD! WHAT'S *HAPPENING* TO YOU?

CLAY, MY DEAR DOCTOR! *CLAY* IS HAPPENING TO ME!

RRIIIIIP

SHRP

THE *MALLEABILITY* OF *CLAYFACE FOUR*, BLESS HER SIMPLE LITTLE SOUL...

SHRIP

N-NO--!

SSSSSSSSSSSSSSS

AND THE *LETHAL TOUCH* OF *CLAYFACE THREE!*

RIIP

SHRIPT

AAGH!

12

SSSSSSS

CHEEESH

LEAVE HIM, KARLO!

WHAT? YOU!

I SAID LEAVE HIM!

SMASH

FWAP

YOUR TOYS CANNOT STOP ME NOW, BATMAN!

IT IS NO LONGER BASIL KARLO, THE WORLD'S GREATEST ACTOR, THAT YOU FACE--

BUT BASIL KARLO--THE ULTIMATE CLAYFACE!

13

UUNGH!

LISTEN... I'M SORRY ABOUT THIS-- BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY CASH RIGHT NOW...

SHEESH! YOU SUPER-GUYS IS ALL THE SAME!

SOMEBODY SHOULD DESIGN A COSTUME WITH POCKETS. THEY'D HAVE IT MADE!

I'LL GIVE YOU MY ADDRESS...

NEVER MIND, LADY. FOR YOU, IT'S *WORTH* DROPPIN' THE TAB!

WHAT--?

GOTHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

BATMAN!

KAAK!= YOU... YOU'RE MAD, KARLO! YOU--

SHRIP

MAD? OH YES, THE TRADITIONAL ACCUSATION! AND NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME IT'S ALL BECAUSE I'M *MISUNDERSTOOD!*

14

ALL THE GREAT MONSTERS WERE MISUNDERSTOOD! MR. HYDE -- FRANKENSTEIN'S CREATION--DRACULA-- THE GOLEM -- ALL OF THEM!

STARTING TO BLACK OUT! CAN'T LAST MUCH...LONGER. HAVE TO REACH... UTILITY BELT...

BUT NOT ME! NOT BASIL KARLO! *NOT THE ULTIMATE CLAYFACE!*

MY INTENTIONS WILL BE *CLEAR* FROM THE START! I WILL *TAKE* WHAT I *WANT*-- *WHEN* I WANT IT! AND ANY WHO STAND IN MY WAY SHALL--

SHRIP

SSHREP

GOT IT!

--BUR-AAIIIEEEEEE!

FWASH

EMERGENCY FLARE!

SSSS

BURN'S ONLY SUPERFICIAL. HAVE TO HIT HIM AGAIN --HOPE I CAN HOLD HIM TILL THE COPS SHOW UP WITH TRANKS!

KRASH

FWASH

BLAST! DIDN'T TAKE HIM LONG TO MASTER HIS NEW POWERS!

YOU'VE PLAGUED ME TOO MANY YEARS, BATMAN!

BUT NO MORE!

FSSSS

15

GOOD THING THE MAN LEFT HIS ROPE!

OH... HIDEOUS!

I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT HIM. HAVE TO PUT EVERYTHING I'VE GOT INTO TAKING HIM OUT WITH--

ONE *STUN* BOLT!

AAHHH!

SO--THE *REAL* LOOKER, I PRESUME...OR ARE YOU MY CLAYFACED LADY FRIEND?

NO MATTER.

KSH RENCH BRATCH

YOU'LL *DIE* JUST THE SAME!

16

FORCE-SHIELD'S NOT GOING TO BE EN--

UNGH!

NOW, MY DEAR, YOU PLAY LEADING LADY FOR THE LAST TIME--

YOUR DEATH SCENE!

ENOUGH, YOU MANIAC!

ENOUGH!

AS YOU WISH!

AS YOU WISH, BATMAN--

=OOOOF!=

UNG!

HA HAHA HA HA HA HA

17

AHH--A SUDDEN *HUSH* DESCENDS! THE AUDIENCE DRAWS IN ITS BREATH! THE *VILLAINS* OF THE PIECE ARE *DOWN*--THE *HERO* STANDS *TRIUMPHANT!*

ONLY ONE QUESTION REMAINS--DOES HE NOBLY *SPARE* THEIR WORTHLESS LIVES...

OR DO THEY *DIE?*

HE'S TURNING UP THE JUICE! WE'RE BOTH *PUDDLES*, UNLESS--

LIA! DON'T TRY TO FIGHT HIM! ADD TO HIS POWER!

18

OVERLOAD IT! TURN IT BACK ON HIM!

LORD! GIVE ME

STRENGTH!

MY HEAD...!

STOP! STOP!

I'M BURNING UP!

NO! IT CANNOT END LIKE THIS! IT'S NOT FAIR! IT WAS *MY* SCRIPT! *MINE!* I'M SUPPOSED TO WIN, NOT YOU!

NOT YOOOOUUUU!

HE'S OUT OF CONTROL! WHATEVER HAPPENS NOW--

WUMP CHSH

SAFER IF IT HAPPENS *OUTSIDE!*

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, BATMAN! I SWEAR--

SSSS

THE DOCTOR WASN'T SO LUCKY.

OH, GROSS! THAT COULD HAVE BEEN US!

WHAT MADE IT HAPPEN?

YOU MUST HAVE TRIGGERED SOME SORT OF *CHAIN REACTION*. WHATEVER IT IS THAT MAKES PRESTON PAYNE *BURN*, KARLO GOT IT IN SPADES!

WHEN'LL HE STOP?

MAYBE WE'D BETTER INFORM THE AUTHORITIES IN *CHINA*!

NOOO

I WONDER WHERE KARLO IS NOW? AND BATMAN-- YOU THINK THEY'LL HAVE FOUND HIM YET?

WHO CARES? WE HAVE BETTER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT.

US, FOR INSTANCE.

I MEAN, WE CAN'T JUST SIT AROUND HERE WATCHING DAWNS AND SUNSETS FOREVER.

EVEN IF THEY *ARE* BEAUTIFUL.

MAYBE NOT FOREVER, PRESTON...

BUT FOR A WHILE.

FOR A WHILE.

THE END

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Selina Kyle
Occupation: Professional criminal
Known Relatives: Magdalene (sister)
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
Current Status: Active
First Appearance: BATMAN #1, 1940
Height: 5'7" *Weight:* 125 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

Selina Kyle's early days are mostly unrecorded but it is known that she came from a relatively unhappy home. As a child she sought solace from the procession of cats that her family adopted. She and her sister Magdalene grew up to be entirely different teenagers.

Magdalene, the older sister, sought escape in the church and ultimately became a nun assigned to a parish in a seedy portion of Gotham City. Selina ran away from home at age 15 and wound up becoming one of countless homeless adolescents clogging the city's streets.

After being beaten by a petty criminal named Stan, Selina lay in a hospital when Detective Flannery entered her life. He saw something special in Selina, some inner fire that he felt could be tapped. Instead of harassing her, he gave her a phone number that belonged to former boxing heavyweight champion Ted Grant (also known as the costumed hero Wildcat), who worked out with Selina, teaching her how best to protect herself. Both Flannery and Grant hoped to mellow Selina, restoring her to a more normal life. Selina rarely let her hard shell be pierced and their pleas were ignored.

Selina returned to her apartment only to find Stan waiting for her. He talked her into donning a cat-like costume. Later, Selina was so costumed when she first encountered The Batman. In disguise, he got into a fight beneath her window. A young girl, Holly, was almost hurt by the fight, and this brought out a maternal side of Selina, previously unseen.

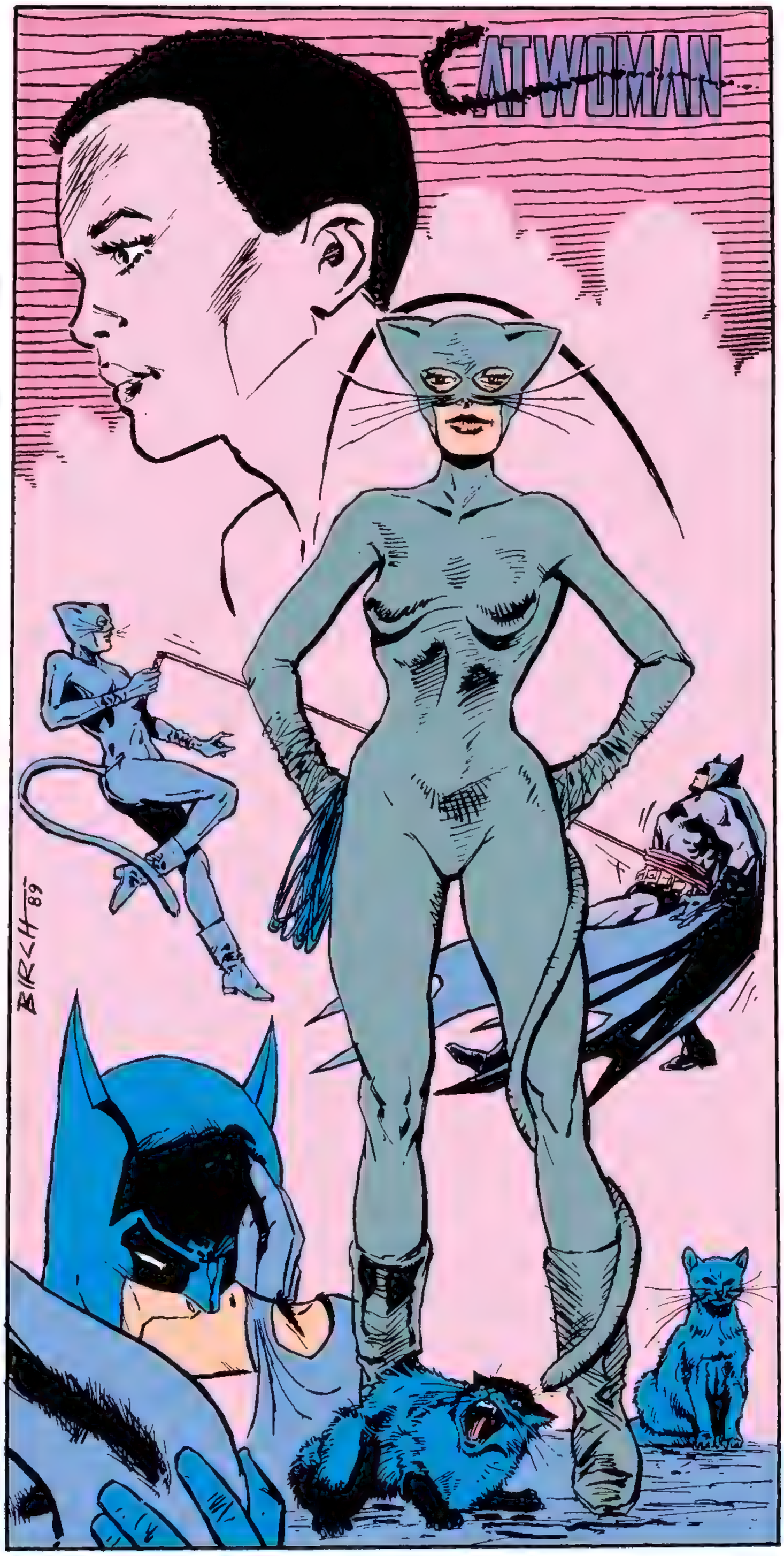
A few days later, Selina donned the cat costume, hoping to become a partner of the Caped Crusader. The novice Darknight Detective ignored her and this sent Selina into a man-hating rage.

When events led to Stan's kidnapping of Magdalene, Selina became the Catwoman for the first time and tracked down her sister. Later, Selina became the Catwoman to save Holly from a corrupt cop who was beating her. This brought her into direct contact with The Batman. While he preached the virtues of justice, she insisted she must do things her way. They agreed that they'd be on opposite sides, despite the strong attraction between them.

Holly was subsequently raised by Sister Magdalene, married and moved to New Jersey to start afresh. Her criminal past caught up to her some time later and brought about her death. She was avenged by the Catwoman.

Over the years, the Catwoman has committed numerous crimes with cat motifs.

The Catwoman remains at large.



POWERS & WEAPONS

Trained by Ted Grant, Selina Kyle is an excellent athlete and superb hand-to-hand combatant. She is exceptionally nimble and quick on her feet—like her namesake.

Grant also taught Selina to be proficient with a cat-o'-nine-tails, her trademark weapon. Its snap can cause pain, maim or even kill. She has done all three. ■

Art by J.J. Birch

CLAYFACES I-IV

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Basil Karlo
Occupation: Former Actor, now Professional Criminal
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: The Mud Pack
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #40 (June, 1940)
Height: 5'11" *Weight:* 178 lbs.
Eyes: Brown *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

A once-famous character actor whose mind became unhinged when one of his classic films was to be remade starring someone else, makeup expert Basil Karlo began a murder spree, disguising himself with a clay makeup—hence the name "Clayface." He was apprehended by Batman and Robin (see *Batman, Robin I*) and was committed to Arkham Asylum, from which he escaped only to be recaptured by Batman.

Though now much older, Karlo has plans to unite as a team all the various villains known as "Clayface"; his objective has yet to be revealed.

POWERS & WEAPONS

While possessing no superhuman powers, Clayface is a crafty criminal tactician. ■

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Matt Hagen
Occupation: Professional Criminal
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #298 (December, 1961)
Height: 5'10" *Weight:* 173 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Blond

HISTORY

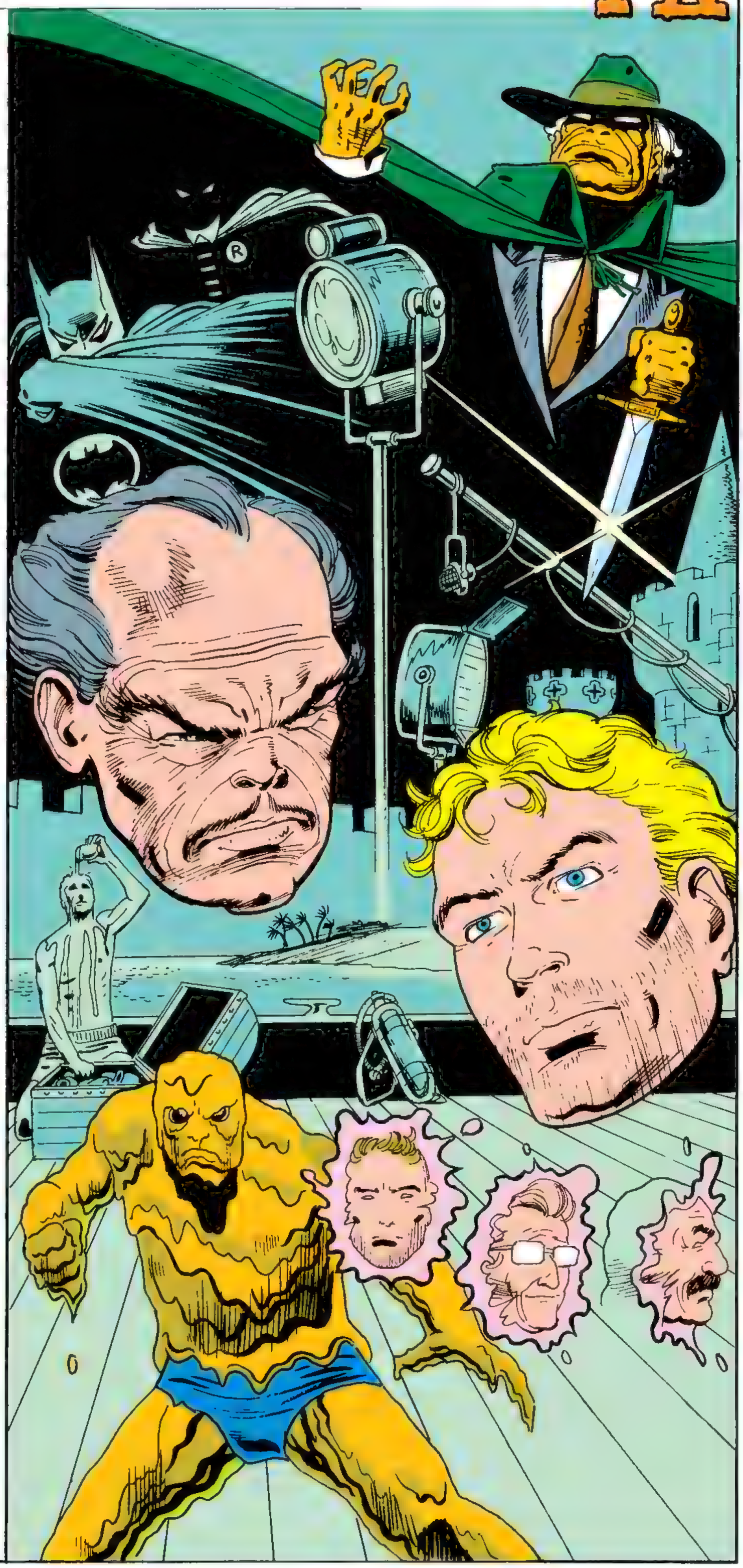
While searching for sunken treasure, "Lucky" Matt Hagen discovered a cache of strange urns containing a solution that, when applied to his body, would temporarily turn his body into clay but would allow him to assume any shape he could envision. Named "Clayface" by the Gotham press, Hagen embarked on a series of robberies that led to his capture by Batman (see *Batman*).

Over the years, as the supply of urns was exhausted, Hagen learned to synthesize the strange solution, but his powers were not enough to save him from being annihilated by the Shadow Demons of the Anti-Monitor (see *Monitor*) during the Crisis. Recently, the other criminals known as Clayface (see individual listings) have banded together in an attempt to restore Hagen to life. Whether they succeed remains to be determined.

POWERS & WEAPONS

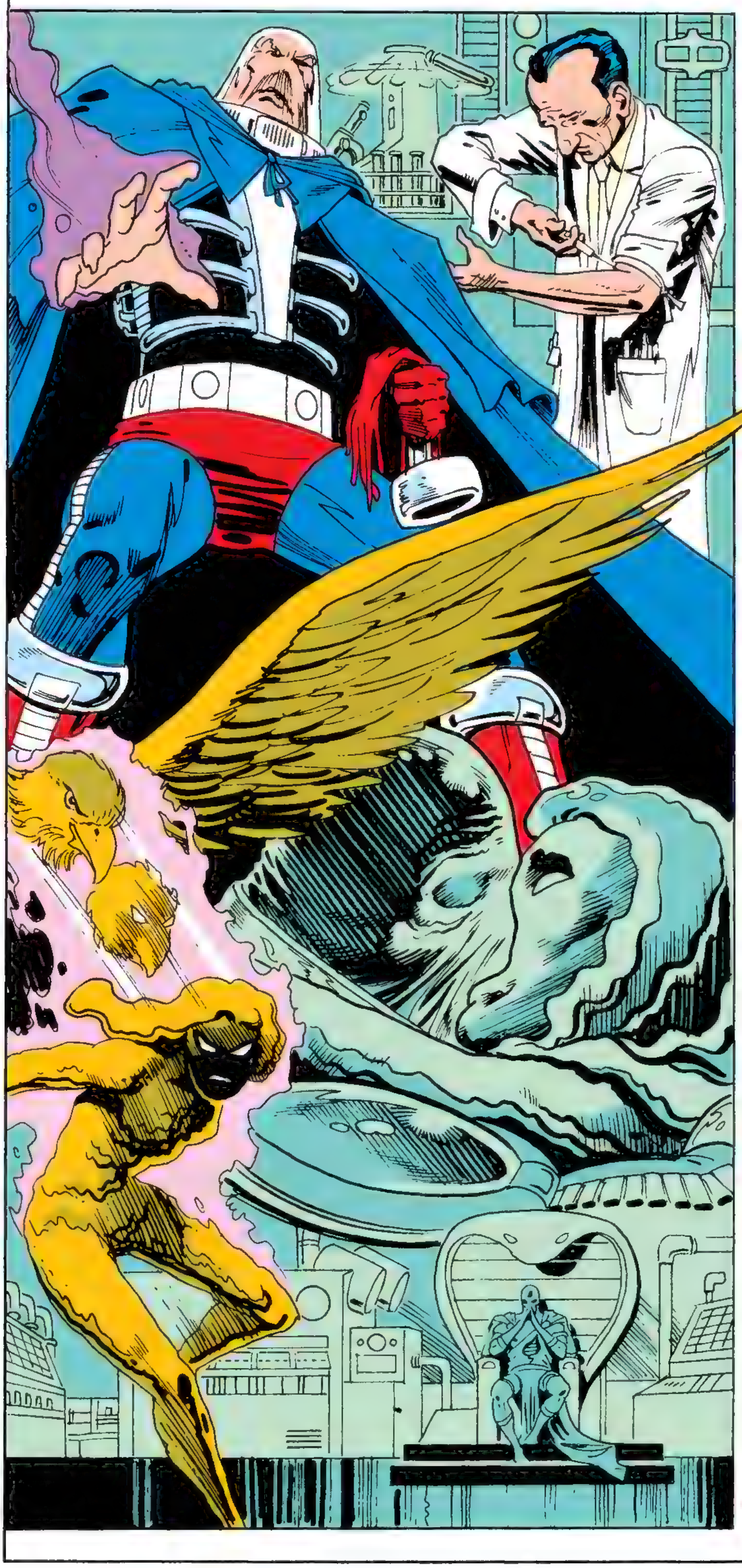
By bathing himself in the unique solution in the urns, Hagen was able to temporarily transform himself into almost any shape his mind could conceive—duplicating perfectly the color, texture and abilities of the replicated item. ■

Art by Norm Breyfogle



PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Preston Payne
Occupation: Research Scientist
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: The Mud Pack
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #478 (July-August, 1978)
Height: 6'4" *Weight:* 264 lbs.
Eyes: Red *Hair:* Black



HISTORY

Born an acromegalic, a victim of chronic hyperpituitarism, Preston Payne grew up physically grotesque and friendless. Blessed with a genius I.Q., the adult Payne took a job with S.T.A.R. Labs in the vain hope of finding a cure for his condition. Finally, the desperate Payne visited the prison cell of Matt Hagen (see *Clayface II*) and obtained from him a blood sample; from this, Payne isolated an enzyme that, when injected into his own body, made his flesh malleable.

Transforming himself into an Adonis, Payne stepped out on the town, only to discover two things—that his flesh was now unstable and unsolid, and that his touch reduced others to blobs of protoplasm. Payne found that, to survive, he periodically had to unleash his destructive power on others; the resultant guilt snapped his mind and brought him into criminal conflict time and again with Batman (see *Batman*).

POWERS & WEAPONS

Clayface possesses extraordinary strength as a result of the special exoskeleton he wears to support his clay-like body, which secretes a unique enzyme capable of reducing human flesh and bone to protoplasm. ■

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Unknown
Occupation: Professional Criminal
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: The Mud Pack
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: THE OUTSIDERS #21 (July, 1987)
Height: 5'9" *Weight:* 131 lbs.
Eyes: Black *Hair:* Brown

HISTORY

Nothing is known of this Clayface's personal life: a former henchwoman of the criminal mastermind Kobra (see *Kobra*), she was transformed by his science into a permanently powered duplicate of the second Clayface, Matt Hagen, and sent to battle the Outsiders (see *Outsiders*) as a member of Strikeforce: Kobra (see *Strikeforce: Kobra*).

Recently, this Clayface has resurfaced, recruited by the original Clayface, Basil Karlo, as part of a criminal gang called "The Mud Pack."

In her original human form, Clayface is believed to have a hideously deformed countenance.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Clayface is able to temporarily transform herself into any shape her mind can conceive, duplicating perfectly the color, texture and abilities of the replicated item. ■

Art by Norm Breyfogle

THE JOKER

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Unknown
Occupation: Psychopathic criminal
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
Current Status: Active
First Appearance: BATMAN #1, 1940
Height: 6'5" *Weight:* 192 lbs.
Eyes: Green *Hair:* Green

HISTORY

The Joker remains The Batman's most deadly enemy and certainly his most enigmatic. Over the years, the Joker has told different stories about his beginnings. Of late, the account given most credence had him as a happily married laboratory assistant at the Ace Chemical Processors in Gotham City. He quit, hoping to become a stand-up comedian, but found that audiences considered him unfunny.

A failure in life, wanting to find a way to support his wife and their soon-to-be-born child, he let himself be talked into helping criminals. Disguised in a metallic red hood, he was to guide them through Ace Chemical to the adjoining Monarch Card Company, where the men planned to commit a robbery.

However, on the day of the robbery, tragedy struck: his wife was electrocuted in a freak accident. Despondent, the future Joker wanted to pull out of the heist but was pressured into keeping his word. Reluctantly, he took the gang into Ace Chemical that night.

The crime was foiled by security guards and by The Batman. The man panicked and ran from the Darknight Detective, diving into a catch basin of chemical waste. He returned home and removed the helmet, discovering to his horror that the chemicals bleached his skin white, turned his hair green and gave him blood-red lips. This was the last straw. It pushed him over the edge into insanity and that night the Joker was born.

Dubbing himself the Clown Prince of Crime, the Joker set out to commit crimes that seemed to have no rhyme or reason. Over the years, his elaborate schemes have always been foiled by The Batman. Gradually, the two men have come to recognize the bond that exists between opposites. Once, The Batman tried to talk with The Joker, to reason with him and resolve their differences without one or the other dying. The discussion came to nothing.

Joker's two most heinous crimes involved people closest to the Gotham Guardian. In an attempt to break the mind and spirit of Commissioner James Gordon, the Joker entered his apartment and kidnapped the Commissioner. When Gordon's niece, Barbara, attempted to stop the crime, the Joker shot her. Barbara was permanently crippled, though The Batman stopped the Joker from destroying the Commissioner.

More recently, the Joker attempted to enter the nuclear arms business, only to be thwarted by Batman and the second Robin. However, the Joker managed to exact revenge when he brutally beat Robin to death. He then quickly contrived to become Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations, giving him diplomatic immunity.

It took the combined efforts of Superman and Batman to stop the Joker's scheme to kill the entire General Assembly. The Batman pursued the Joker to the piers and in the fight it appeared the Joker fell to his death.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Over the years, the Joker has used a vast array of weapons and vehicles, mostly murderous variations on party gags. Early in his career he perfected a chemical potion, "Joker venom," that would bring about instant death, contorting the victim's face into a smile similar to the Joker's own.

The Joker usually surrounds himself with henchmen to handle the more brawny tasks and has proven to be at best a mediocre hand-to-hand combatant. ■

Art by Kevin Maguire & Karl Kesel

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Oswald Chesterfield Cobblepot
Occupation: Professional Criminal
Known Relatives: Miranda Cobblepot (aunt)
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #58 (December, 1941)
Height: 5'2" *Weight:* 175 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

Oswald Cobblepot had a miserable childhood; he was still young when his father died of bronchial pneumonia, and as his mother blamed this on his being caught out in the rain without an umbrella, she insisted her son carry one at all times.

Cobblepot's portly appearance and his ever-present umbrella made him the object of torment from other boys . . . particularly a bully named "Sharkey," who, amused by the rolling way he walked, called him "Penguin." Eventually, the taunts Cobblepot endured drove him to retaliatory action; training himself in boxing, he took revenge by savagely beating Sharkey. However, Sharkey got the last laugh by destroying all of Cobblepot's only friends—the birds in Mrs. Cobblepot's bird shop.

With the help of his aunt, Cobblepot went to college and majored in ornithology. Afterwards, young hate and anger manifested itself in Cobblepot, who became a thief, taking the childhood name "Penguin." Cobblepot's outrageous ego demanded he adopt not one but two "trademarks" of crime: birds and umbrellas, both of which became important instruments of evil in the course of his criminal career. As his first job, The Penguin stole a rare Prussian egret from a penthouse suite. He then escaped with his parachute umbrella, much to the chagrin of Batman and Robin (see *Batman, Robin I*), who were outwitted by the Bird of Banditry several times before they apprehended him.

Since that time, the Man of 1,000 Umbrellas has been one of Batman's most implacable foes. He has often based his crimes on birds and has sometimes employed them in his machinations. His trick umbrellas are formidable weapons, adding to his deadliness. He has but one weakness: his vanity, upon which The Batman has played several times in order to trap The Penguin.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Lacking either superhuman powers or athletic ability (though he is remarkably agile for one so fat), the Penguin relies on his trick umbrellas. He has adapted umbrellas to, among other things, shoot bullets, squirt acid, throw flames, and conceal weapons such as swords and gas. ■

Art by J.J. Birch

POISON IVY

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Pamela Lillian Isley
Occupation: Adventurer
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: Suicide Squad
Base of Operations: Belle Reve prison, Louisiana
Current Status: Active
First Appearance: BATMAN #181, June, 1966
Height: 5'6" *Weight:* 119 lbs.
Eyes: Green *Hair:* Brown

HISTORY

It all depends upon the file. Pamela Isley could be 34 or 27, a super-powered individual or an extremely self-deluded woman. One thing is for certain, Pamela Isley is one of the most dangerous women alive.

The only child of parents living in Seattle, Pamela grew up alone and took great refuge in the flora surrounding her home She claims to have discovered an attraction to boys when she was five but they didn't return her attentions for ten years. She bided her time by talking to the plants, nurturing them and drawing strength from their quiet solitude.

Her records show that she studied botany under a Professor LeGrand but she claims today that it wasn't until she attended college and studied with Jason Woodrue that she gained true expertise.

When Woodrue left the university to devote himself fully to being the criminal called the Floronic Man, Pamela lost interest in her studies. Adding to her distraction was a deep, abiding infatuation with a costumed crimefighter called The Batman. She collected articles and memorabilia about him and Robin the Boy Wonder. To attract his attention, she took on the costumed persona of Poison Ivy and launched a crime career. Each battle against Batman led to defeat, but usually not before she stole a few kisses. Later, she also came into conflict with other crimefighters and always found herself a loser.

During this time, Pamela realized that if she could not get much of a reaction out of Batman, she would obtain something more important: power. She used her allure to corrupt men, obtain wealth, and position herself as one of the most powerful people in Gotham City.

As her career progressed, Ivy gained more and more control of plant life, finding as yet unexplained ways to manipulate plants, causing them to grow and bend to her will. This has made her a much more dangerous criminal. Also, her sanity has come into question.

Poison Ivy recently came into contact with the plant-being called Black Orchid and they found themselves to be kindred spirits with opposite goals. Ivy was a prisoner awaiting trial at this time and was subsequently interviewed by a representative from Task Force X. His recommendation was to place her in Arkham Asylum.

However, on a visit to fellow inmate Deadshot, the Task Force X member called Duchess chanced upon Poison Ivy, who talked Duchess into breaking her out of Arkham. Ivy is now serving with the Suicide Squad, which may or may not be a positive step for the troubled young woman.

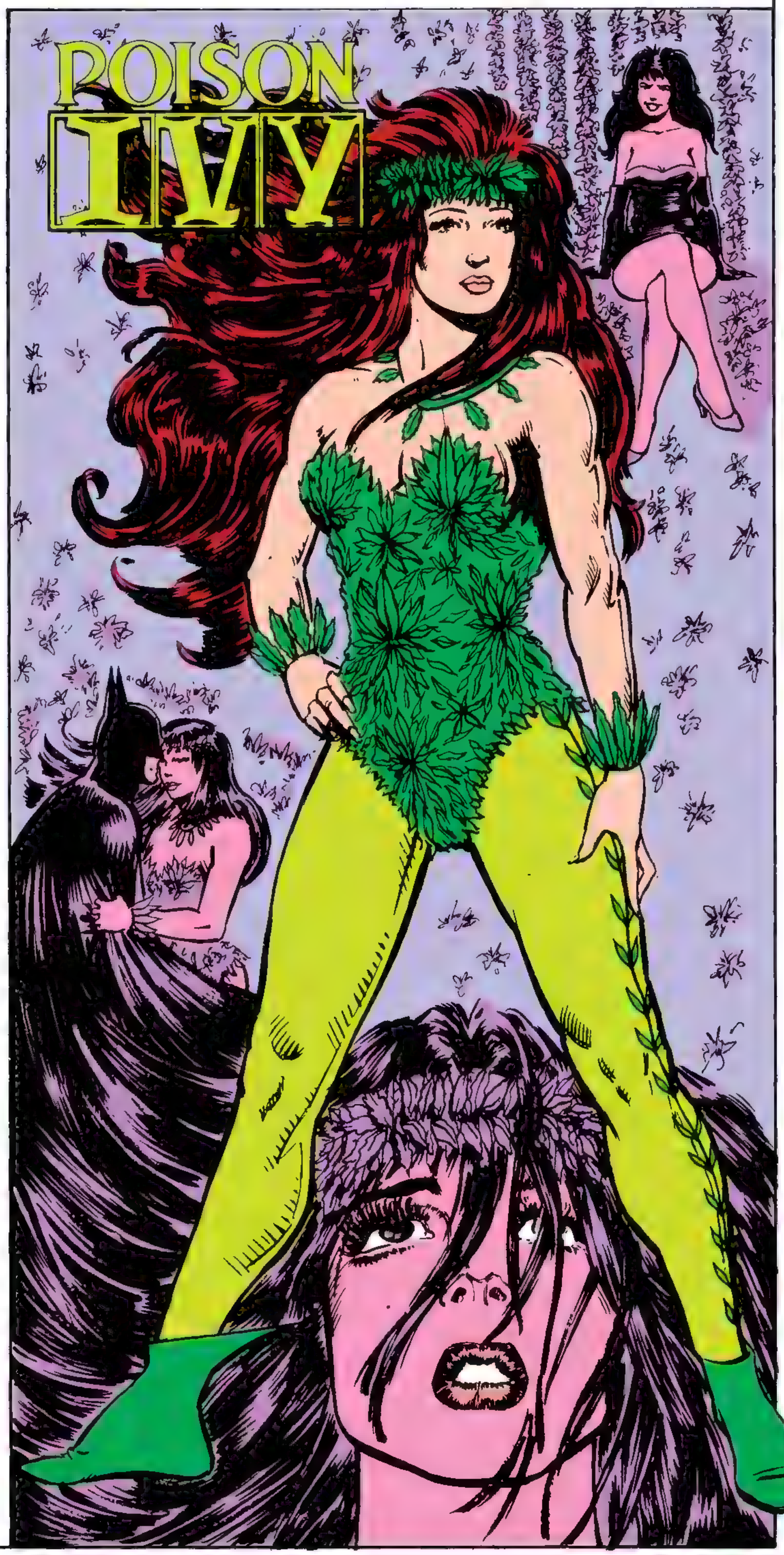
POWERS & WEAPONS

It has been stated in some reports that Poison Ivy was exposed to poison but proved to be immune to it and all other poisons. Today Ivy laughs at that account.

Poison Ivy does have control over all forms of plant life to one degree or another. While not in complete control of it, like the plant elemental Swamp Thing, Ivy is able to grow and control localized areas of plant forms. How long her control lasts has yet to be determined.

She is an average hand-to-hand combatant but has an inner fury that makes her extremely dangerous, especially if she is opposing a male. ■

Art by Chris Wozniak and Jerry Acerno



RA'S AL GHŪL

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: None known
Occupation: Conqueror
Marital Status: Widower
Known Relatives: Talia (daughter)
Group Affiliation: Head of his own world-wide organization, former head of the League of Assassins
Base of Operations: Various bases in North Africa and throughout the world
First Appearance: BATMAN #232
Height: 6'3" *Weight:* 160 lbs.
Eyes: Green *Hair:* Gray, white at temples

HISTORY

Virtually nothing is known about the life of Ra's al Ghul before he first encountered the Batman. His name means "the demon's head" in Arabic. "Al Ghul" signifies a mischief-maker, and a ghoul by that name appears in *The Arabian Nights*. If Ra's was born with another name, it remains unknown. Ra's makes his home in the deserts of North Africa, but the place of his origin is also unknown. His true age is a mystery as well, but he has already lived far beyond a normal human lifespan. His only known relative is his daughter Talia, the name and history of her mother have not been revealed.

Ra's al Ghul heads a powerful secret organization of worldwide scope. Until recent years this organization included the dreaded League of Assassins, which has since seceded

Talia fell in love with the Batman after he rescued her from captivity by the League's Dr. Ebeneezer Darrk. Ra's decided to test the Batman's fitness to become his heir and son-in-law. Ra's discovered the Batman's true identity and arranged the abduction of his partner, the first Robin. Then Ra's met with the Batman, claiming that Talia had been similarly kidnapped, and asked him to help find her. Suspecting from the start that Ra's himself was behind the abductions, the Batman nevertheless braved many dangers in finding Talia and Robin, thereby greatly impressing Ra's.

The Batman has since learned that Ra's al Ghul has dedicated himself to the goal of ending the political and ecological disorder on Earth by taking control of the planet himself. Although he is a man of great honor, Ra's will resort to ruthless methods to achieve this goal. The Batman regards Ra's as a lawbreaker whom he must stop. Hence, although the Batman is strongly attracted to Talia, his ongoing war with her father continually comes between them.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Ra's Al Ghul possesses no superhuman powers, but he has great physical strength and stamina. He is a formidable hand-to-hand combatant and a master swordsman.

Ra's al Ghul has extended his life span and renewed his physical vitality many times through immersion in the Lazarus Pit, a bath of fluids of unknown chemical composition. The Pit has restored his full health even when Ra's lay at the brink of death. For a brief time after immersion in the Pit, Ra's will be seized by a fit of madness in which he possesses unusually great strength. Ra's has stated that there is a limit to the number of times he can use the Lazarus Pit effectively.

Ra's al Ghul commands an arsenal of highly advanced technology and weaponry. ■

Art by Joe James and Karl Kesel

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Eddie Nashton, a.k.a. Edward Nigma
Occupation: Former Professional Criminal, now Junkyard Caretaker
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: DETECTIVE COMICS #140 (October, 1948)
Height: 6'1" *Weight:* 183 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

When Eddie Nashton was a boy, one of his teachers announced a contest to see which of her students could assemble a particular jigsaw puzzle the fastest. That night, Nashton secretly took a photo of the assembled puzzle which he found in the teacher's desk. The next day, Nashton won the contest with ease. This was the first known example of Nashton's dishonest use of puzzles.

Years later, the adult Nashton further parlayed his love of conundrums by running a rigged puzzle booth at a carnival. Yearning to make even bigger money, he decided to become a thief on a grand scale and to match wits with the Gotham police—and Batman (*see Batman*). Changing his real name to Edward Nigma—"E. Nigma"—Nashton donned a costume and became The Riddler, a wily crook who always sent clues to his forthcoming crimes in the forms of riddles and puzzles.

Batman learned that over the years The Riddler had developed a conditioned reflex that makes it impossible for him to make an important move in his life without leaving some sort of riddle to explain it; consequently, The Riddler is psychologically incapable of committing any crime without first sending a riddle clue to Batman or the police. The Riddler is fully aware of this character trait and makes his riddles particularly complex and difficult, but it is this same fatal flaw that has prevented him from becoming one of Batman's greater foes and has forever relegated him to the status of "second-class criminal."

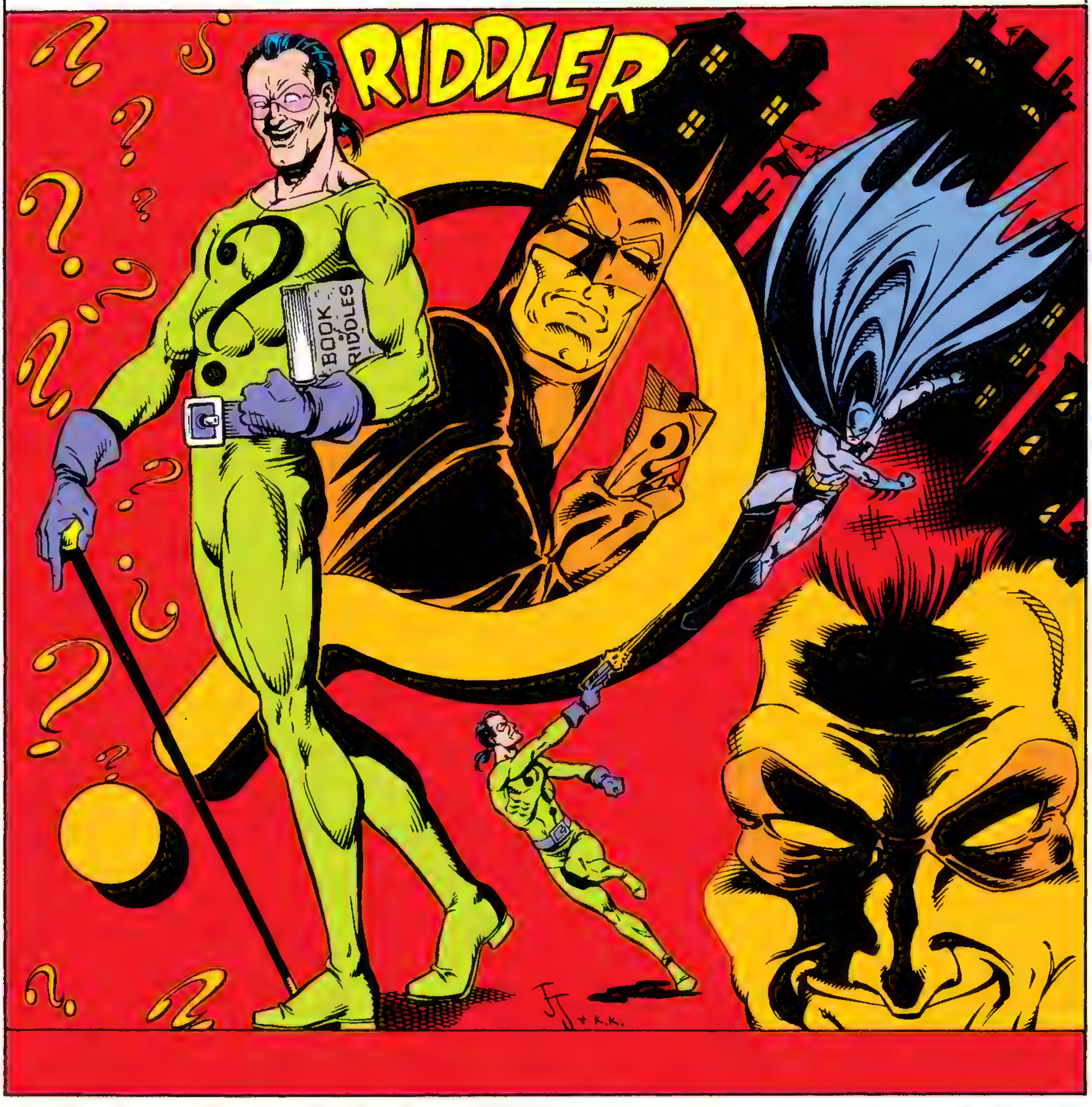
Over the years, the Riddler has become a less and less formidable villain. At last report, he had retired from crime and had taken a job as caretaker of the Finger Junkyard in downtown Gotham. Whether he has permanently left his criminal career behind remains to be seen.

POWERS & WEAPONS

The Riddler has no superhuman powers, but he is a criminal strategist of some cunning. He is only a fair hand-to-hand combatant.

The Riddler often used guns as weapons and was a good marksman. He sometimes employed weaponry disguised as puzzles, such as large jigsaw puzzle pieces that explode, or guns shaped as question marks. ■

Art by Joe James and Karl Kesel



PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Jonathan Crane
Occupation: Professional Criminal
Known Relatives: None
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
Current Status: Active
First Appearance: WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #3 (?, 1940)
Height: 6' *Weight:* 140 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Black

HISTORY

By the time Jonathan Crane joined the faculty at Gotham University as a psychology professor, he had a reputation of being rather odd. It is known that as a young boy he enjoyed frightening birds and one fear led to another as he became nearly obsessed with the topic.

Early on, Crane was nicknamed "Scarecrow" because of his unusually thin frame. He became the object of derision from faculty and student body alike at Gotham, feeding Crane's pathology. In an attempt to live up to people's expectations, Crane began a series of bizarre experiments in class, including firing a loaded gun at a potted plant, totally unnerving the classroom. Since his specialty, phobias, did not bring in much money, Crane decided the only way to prove he was *someone* was to steal. He lectured, one day, about how criminals use fear to make protection rackets work so well. As he explored the topic, his mind was at work on schemes of his own.

Shortly thereafter, Crane dressed in ragged, brown clothes to resemble a living scarecrow and committed a series of crimes. News of the Scarecrow's exploits reached The Batman who, with Robin, began a manhunt. The inexperienced Crane was easy prey to the Darknight Detective.

However, Crane further refined his method of operation and used his brilliant, albeit twisted, mind to devise new methods of inducing fears. Over the years, the Scarecrow has used drugs, chemicals and electronics to terrify police, civilians and crimefighters alike.

The Scarecrow has proven to be one of the toughest opponents The Batman has ever encountered, if only because of the personal demons the Scarecrow has forced the Caped Crusader to confront. While never resorting to murder, the Scarecrow has incited riots and driven people to suicide.

The Batman and Robin have continued to defeat the Scarecrow in combat. When the Scarecrow attempted crimes outside of Gotham, he continued to be hounded by Batman who, with Captain Atom, managed to confound the Scarecrow's plans.

The Scarecrow has relied entirely on fear to make his crimes work but he has rarely succeeded, driving him deeper and deeper into an unusual psychosis that has defied the psychiatrists treating him at Arkham Asylum. Currently, Crane has begun exhibiting a variety of phobias, perhaps as an after-effect of exposing himself to so many different toxins. His most inhibiting fear has been his fear of capture by Batman, almost guaranteeing that Crane will never willingly break free of Arkham.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Crane is relatively weak and a poor hand-to-hand combatant. Yet he has a brilliant mind and has channeled his talents toward creating many chemical compounds that can affect the human brain for limited duration, usually provoking some phobia to manifest itself, driving a person or group to distraction.

Crane usually surrounds himself with henchmen to provide the brawn to execute his nefarious plans. ■

Art by Joe James & Karl Kesel

PERSONAL DATA

Alter Ego: Harvey Dent
Occupation: Former District Attorney, now Professional Criminal
Known Relatives: Grace Dent (ex-wife)
Group Affiliation: None
Base of Operations: Gotham City
First Appearance: (Harvey Dent) DETECTIVE COMICS #66 (August, 1942); (Paul Sloane) BATMAN #68 (Dec. 1951–Jan. 1952); (George Blake) DETECTIVE COMICS #187 (September, 1952)
Height: 6′ *Weight:* 182 lbs.
Eyes: Blue *Hair:* Brown

HISTORY

A successful Gotham City district attorney, Harvey Dent was nicknamed "Apollo" by the press for his good looks. Dent was the prosecutor in the murder trial of gangster "Boss" Maroni when at a climactic point in the trial, he produced a two-headed silver dollar (Maroni's legendary good luck piece) and stated that the coin had been found at the scene of the murder and thus proved Maroni was responsible. Maroni realized he was nailed, but got his revenge on Dent by hurling a vial of acid at his "pretty boy face." The acid struck the left side of Dent's face, scarring it hideously.

The damage seemed permanent, and the pain, the ruin of his face, and his fear of losing his wife Grace's love drove Dent insane. Blaming Maroni's silver dollar for his fate, Dent slashed at one side of it with a knife so that one of its heads was scarred, too. Believing he was now all alone, shunned like an outcast, Dent began his criminal career as Two-Face.

As Two-Face, Dent was obsessed with the number two and duality and based all of his crimes on these themes. He made all his decisions by flipping his coin and seeing whether it landed on the "good" side or the scarred, "evil" side. After repeatedly clashing with his former friend and confidant Batman (see *Batman*), Dent finally regained his sanity and reformed, and a plastic surgeon performed a tricky operation on his face, restoring his looks.

Later, actor Paul Sloane suffered an injury similar to Dent's and became the second criminal called Two-Face, though his face was surgically repaired and his life restored. Still later, a man named George Blake used makeup to impersonate Two-Face and commit crimes that implicated Dent.

Finally, the force of a freak explosion undid Dent's plastic surgery so completely as to prohibit further such cosmetic reconstruction. Dent, driven once more to madness, resumed his criminal career. He renewed his war with the Batman; in the interim, Grace divorced him.

Dent has battled Batman many times, but the Dark Knight, remembering their former friendship, continues to hope that someday the "good" side of Dent's personality will regain control.

POWERS & WEAPONS

Two-Face has no superhuman powers; however, he is a brilliantly cunning criminal strategist and a good hand-to-hand combatant. ■

Art by Mike Mignola

PINUP BY NORM BREYFOGLE

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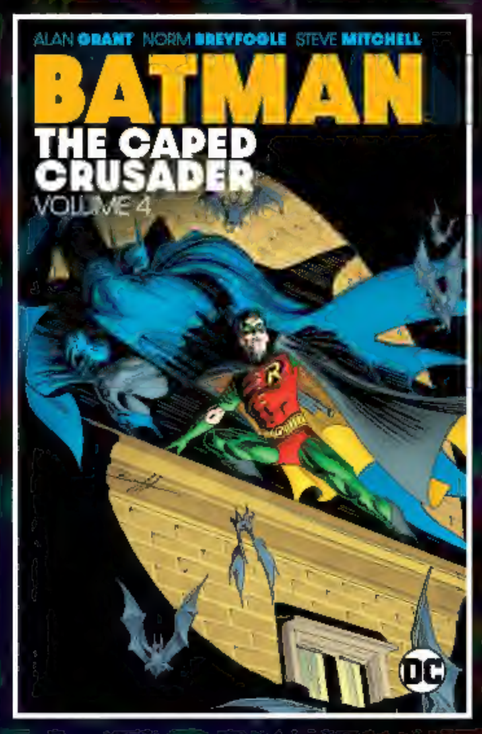

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